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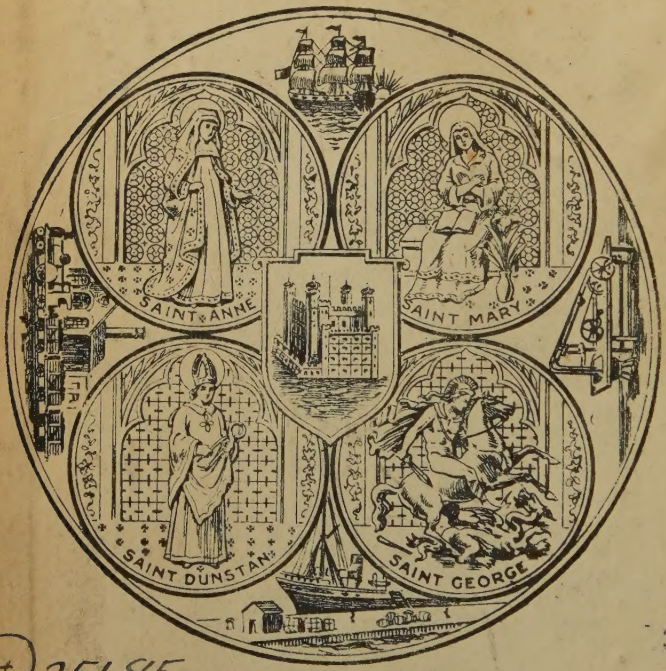

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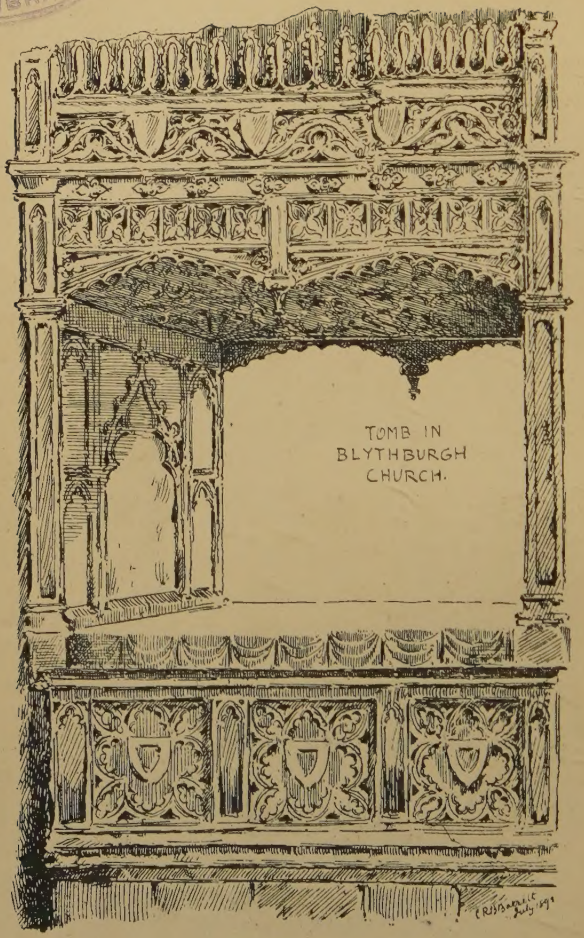

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"JACK SMITE THE CLOCK", SOUTHWOLD.

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ROUND SOUTHWOLD.

SOUTHWOLD.

SOUTHWOLD, from its position, surroundings, and associations, is a place of singular interest. Few can fail to enjoy its breezy sea-shore walks and its grand ocean views. Nor can there be many to whose senses the neighbouring flower-dotted marshes, haunted by wild fowl, or the fern-clad heathery commons do not afford keen delight. But beyond these natural advantages Southwold has other claims to attention. It is the centre of a district full of picturesque and noble relics of antiquity; possessing in its parish church a splendid example of ecclesiastical art, and having in the neighbourhood the quaintly ruinous Covehithe and Walberswick, the sadly decayed Blythburgh, and, lastly, the almost vanished ancient city of Dunwich.

As a municipal borough Southwold does not date back further than 1490, in which year its first charter of incorporation was granted by Henry VII. This charter would seem to have been the outcome of an ancient dispute between Southwold and Dunwich respecting harbour dues. The corporate rights of the new borough were successively confirmed by Henry VIII., Edward VI., Elizabeth, James I., Charles II., and William and Mary. Originally the corporate officers were as follows: two Bailiffs, a High Steward, Coroner, Town Clerk, Chamberlain, two Sergeants-at-Mace, a Marshal of the Admiralty Court, a Clerk of the Market, Crier, and two Fen-reeves. The Modern Corporation consists of a Mayor, four Aldermen, twelve Councillors,

a High Steward, Town Clerk, Sergeant-at-Mace, Crier, and one Fen-reeve.

It is interesting to notice that the two silver maces are still in existence. They are small, being hardly more than a foot in length, and are mounted upon short wooden staves.

The more modern of the two dates from the last quarter of the seventeenth century, and bears upon its head the arms of the borough. With regard to these arms a little difficulty arises. As given in Burke, they are: "Sable, two arrows in Saltire enfiled with a ducal coronet or. Crest—a bust of a man couped at the breast, vested and regally crowned." Now, upon the head of the seventeenth century mace two dolphins are added, one on the dexter side, and the other on the sinister. The Corporation seal has no dolphins, but beneath the coronet is the letter S reversed. Another form in which the arms are displayed, and indeed the general form now in use, has the dolphins in chief and base, *i.e.*, above and below the coronet, while upon either side are the letters E and S. This last is evidently a variation of the Corporation seal which has somehow been assumed in lieu of the original coat. Upon an old piece of carved stone built into the wall of a cottage on the South Green may be seen three shields within a mutilated ornament with initials and date. The two lower coats are those of the families of Strickland and Chapman, and their blazons run as follows:

CARVED STONE SOVTHWOLD

Strickland. Sable, three escallops argent within a bordure of the second.

Chapman. Perchevron, argent and gules, a crescent counter changed.

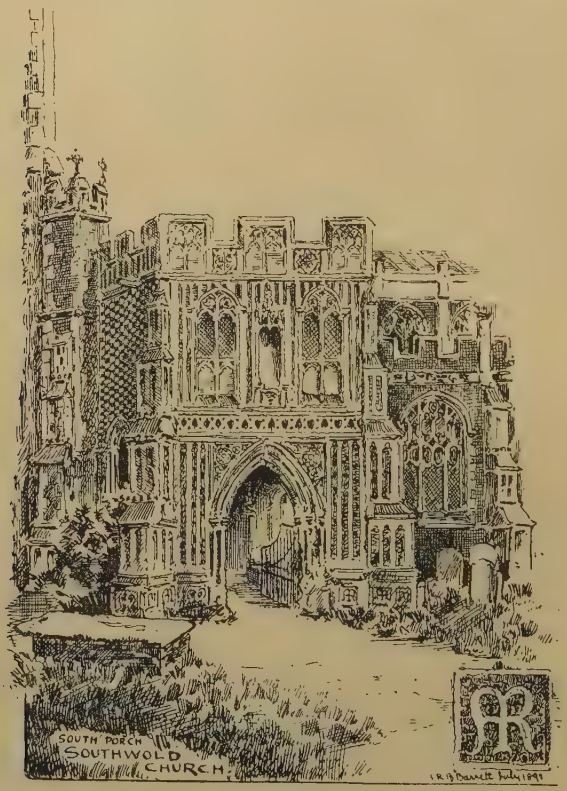
How the coats of these two families came to be cut upon what seems to be a relic of some now long destroyed municipal building is not very apparent; the name of Chapman, however, is yet in the town, and the Strickland family dwelt not long since at Reydon Hall, close to Southwold. The tomb of Miss Agnes Strickland, the well-known historical writer, is in the parish church-yard.

The earliest mention of Southwold seems to be in 1202, when a chapel was built there by the monks of Thetford under the following circumstances. It appears that the abbot and convent of Bury St. Edmunds were the lords

of the manor of Southwold. At this time Southwold was a hamlet of Reydon (Rissemere), of which place the prior and monks of Thetford were the patrons. These respective religious houses quarrelled about the erection of the Southwold chapel. The dispute was eventually referred to Pope Innocent III., and by him to John, Lord Bishop of Norwich. The arbitrator compromised matters between the rivals, and from his award, which is extant, we learn that the abbot and convent of Bury had to pay forty shillings yearly towards the maintenance of the chaplain. This building was destroyed between 1422 and 1432, and it may be assumed that then, or shortly after, the present church was commenced. In 1758 the foundations of the old church or chapel were discovered by some men employed in digging, and from measurements then taken the length of the structure was shown to have been seventy-two feet. It is worthy of remark that the new church was not raised upon the ancient site.

The Church of St. Edmund, Southwold, is a building of great interest and beauty. Its length is within a few inches of 144 feet, and its breadth rather over 56 feet. It has a massive tower some one hundred feet high, pierced in its upper story by belfry windows of unusual construction, for they are divided down the centre by a narrow buttress, which reaches from the coping to the string course; and these are the only windows in the church which possess transoms. A quatrefoil band surrounds the top of the tower, and must originally have been intended to sustain a parapet. It would, however, seem that in this particular the tower was never completed. The west door and west window are both very interesting, and the inscription above the latter (formed by letters each surmounted by a crown, carved in stone, and filled in with squared flint) runs as follows: "Sat Edmund

ora p. nobis." The carvings in the spandrels of the west door are noteworthy, though the same remark applies to nearly every other piece of carving in the building. Dates of erection may be approximately fixed from the presence of the badges of Edward IV. Of special interest is the long



line of graceful windows (eighteen in all) which form the clerestory; and one cannot but admire the cunning skill of the old fifteenth century architect who devised this superb enrichment to the building.

The south porch is noteworthy, though evidently of rather later date than the rest of the church. The sketch shows its main features, though it is very difficult to do anything like justice to so elaborate a subject in so small a compass.

Here stone and flint panels form the decoration of the lower portion; near the ground-line the monogram of the Virgin Mary is inserted. Each buttress and the south face of the porch bears trefoil-headed hollowed stones filled in with squared flint. The niche is handsome, and the windows of the parvise chamber correspond well with those elsewhere, while the effect of the decorated parapet is extremely good, and, being in stone without flint, seems to bring the porch forward. The curious turrets at the north and south angles of the tower should also be noticed as being both ornamental and uncommon.

Within, two things at once strike the eye of the observer, viz., the beauty of the screen and the absence of tombs and monuments. The screen is formed of carved oak, upon which much of the exquisite gilding and painting yet remains, and not a little of the delicate "gesso work" ornamentation is tripartite. By far the most elaborate is the chancel screen, though the portions which shut off the north and south chapels bear more decoration than is usual in similar structures. The figure paintings of the panels in the side screens lack the exquisite finish of those in the centre portion. It will, however, be as well to give a list of the whole collection.

North Aisle.—The Blessed Trinity, Gabriel, the Hierarchy, Arkangelus, Potestates, Dominationes, "Cherebyn," "Serafyn," Thrones, "Principatus," Virtutes, Angelus.

South Aisle.—Baruch, Osea, Nahum, Jeremiah, "Helyas," "Moyses," Daniel, Amos, "Isaias," Jonas, "Ezekias."

The chancel compartments bear the twelve Apostles, and

beneath them four representations of the angel, lion, ox, and eagle.

It is pitiable to see the way in which some of the faces have been entirely scraped off, leaving the woodwork smooth as glass. Portions, too, of the ornamental carving have been in days gone by ruthlessly sawn off, and much of the delicate gesso work has been knocked away. Yet, with all this sad destruction, the screen remains a thing of beauty and a worthy monument of the skilled foreign artists by whom it must have been executed.

The tracery above each panel is very ornate, and the raised decorations upon the flat surface of the panels enrich the whole to a marvellous extent. The fretting (damaged, alas!) of the large open arches of the screen is singularly delicate, and, wisely, has not been restored. As much cannot be said for the pulpit. Here, unfortunately, some years since, the hand of the modern colourist was allowed to work mischief, with the result that by the side of the grand mellowed tones of the screen the garishness of his efforts is only too apparent.

Upon the north wall of the aisle in the rood doorway, and immediately above the end of the screen, stands a curious old carved wooden figure in armour, bearing a sword in its left hand, and striking by means of an axe in its right hand a bell which hangs near. This ancient figure, known as "Jack" or "Jack-smite-the-clock," formerly stood on a large bracket at the west end of the church, and, being connected with the work of the clock, struck the hours within the church. The bracket was removed to make room for a gallery, and "Jack" was placed in his present position, where, by sounding the bell, he performs the duty of letting the congregation know when the service is about to begin.

The figure is of great age, but there are no records as to the date of its construction. Within the chancel the stalls and misereres are quite worthy of attention, as is the old carved roof. In its original state, before the odious Dowsing * worked his wicked will upon the internal decorations of this beautiful church, the whole edifice must have been one mass of carving and mural decoration in colour—the windows filled with painted glass, the splendid font adorned with a lofty cover, and the painted and carved roof hardly inferior to the magnificent screen. The chancel roof appears to have been re-painted, or, at any rate, restored; but much is left to show what it must have been originally. Mention has been made of the absence of monuments within the church, and it would be reasonable to suppose that the chief wealth here lay in brasses, if the matrices from which they have been ruthlessly torn are any criterion.

In the graveyard are five tombs which possess some little interest, viz., those of Jane and Agnes Strickland, the latter the historian of the Queens of England; the other three being those of Thomas Gardner, and his wives Rachel and Mary. Thomas Gardner died in 1769, and had been for

* William Dowsing, the iconoclast, was born about the year 1596. He was the son of a Suffolk yeoman, and is reputed to have been a native of Laxfield. His family were ardent Parliamentarians. Dowsing was appointed by the Earl of Manchester as "Visitor of the Suffolk Churches," December, 1643, for the purpose of destroying and demolishing altars, candlesticks, pictures, and images. His Diary contains most interesting particulars as to the way in which he carried out this mission. He also performed similar duties in Cambridgeshire. Dowsing is reputed to have lived for twenty years in obscurity after the Restoration. The following entry in his Diary relates to Southwold: "April 8th—We brake down one hundred and thirty superstitious pictures—St. Andrew—and four crosses on the four corners of the vestry; and gave orders to take down thirteen cherubims, and to take down twenty angels, and to take down the cover of the font."

years a "salt officer" at Southwold. An enthusiastic antiquary of the old type, he spent his leisure in collecting information about the antiquities of Dunwich, Southwold, and the neighbourhood, eventually publishing a quarto volume thereon. The three tombs have each a curious distich by way of epitaph.

Outside the churchyard wall, upon the green, still stand the stocks and whipping-post—a relic of old days and departed customs.

Upon the opposite side of the green is one quaint gable, the only one in the town. It must be confessed that vestiges of antique domestic architecture are almost entirely lacking in Southwold. This may probably be accounted for by the serious fire which occurred on Monday, the 25th of April, 1659, destroying property to the amount of £40,000—a vast sum in those days. The scene of this fire would appear to have been upon the north side of the church, where even now the houses are only just beginning to be built. It seems reasonable to suppose that the present town, situated on the south side as it is, was laid out in the main subsequent to that date. In connection with this fire a lengthy document is extant, issued by the authority of Parliament, and addressed to the public in general, authorizing the collection by brief of subscriptions, to relieve the distressed, burnt-out inhabitants of Southwold. It would appear that this was issued in response to a petition from the Bailiffs and Commonalty of the ruined town.

In what was formerly Sole or Soul Bay, before the incursions of the sea destroyed its shape, the great sea fight took place on May 26th, 1672, between the Dutch, under De Ruyter, and the English, under the Duke of York (afterwards James II.). As the story of this battle is

history, it is enough to mention that the gallant Earl of Sandwich, the second in command, died fighting hard, and fighting under a cruel imputation of cowardice. The battle took place in full view of Southwold, and it would seem that a condition of panic existed in the town during the whole of this prolonged and hotly contested engagement.

The limits of the port of Southwold now seem to extend from Covehithe, where the port of Yarmouth ends, to Thorp Ness, where the port of Aldeburgh begins, and it is interesting to make a few brief extracts from the "State Papers" upon this subject. In February, 1619, we find the Council endeavouring to exact a "benevolence" all over the kingdom for the benefit of the havens of Dunwich, Southwold, and Walberswick, which "formerly produced £20,000 of fish per ann., but now greatly decayed by the violence of the water and losses of the inhabitants through fire, pirates, shipwrecks, etc.," £600 being needed. In March of the same year we find that Walberswick and Southwold refuse to contribute to the fund for the suppression of pirates, which had been levied upon Yarmouth to the amount of £200, stating that they do not belong to that port. In March, 1626, a ship of Dunkirk (160 tons) cut out a vessel of 100 tons which was lying in Southwold Roads, despite the efforts of the townspeople, who attempted a rescue. The Dunkirkers subsequently fired cannon shot into the town "in contempt." This matter seemed to have stirred up the Bailiffs, who, in the course of a few days, petitioned the Council to furnish them with "12 demi culverins with their carriages," urging the defenceless condition of the town and road. In the same year they also petitioned for a convoy for their fishing fleet. In 1630 we find that some of the fishermen had refused to pay their contributions towards the annual convoy, and the Bailiffs pray the

Council to "send a warrant for such refractory persons." In 1633, and again in 1634, the dispute with regard to the action of Sir John Rous in causing the "decay of the haven" is more than once mentioned, but the matter is too involved for detailed notice. Twenty-two years later we find the harbour still "decayed" for want of piers. On February 4th, 1655-6, press-gangs were at work all over the eastern counties to obtain men for the fleet. Southwold was "beset by Col. Brewster's troop, but the officers of the town were so base that they could not get a man; as fast as our people searched one part of the town they got into the other, although they searched with candles"! So writes Major Wm. Burton to the Admiralty Commissioners.

Shortly after this an order from the Admiralty came down to Southwold to forward one of the Bailiffs, George Warren, to London in custody. In May, 1656, the Trustees for Maintenance of Ministers ordered the parishes of Easton Bavent and Reydon (Co. Suffolk) to be united to the Chapel of Southwold. In the same year we find Robert Robins and Jno. Albertson, Bailiffs of Yarmouth, in Southwold, where they stayed at the Lion Inn, with the intention of pressing men for the fleet. It seems that they failed; but it is interesting to note that the Lion Inn is yet in existence. Ten years later the hunt for men was still going on at Southwold, and a house to house search was projected. This was "Annus Mirabilis"; and it is curious to read that Sergeant Knight came to Southwold "to see if the wounded men were carefully dressed, found them in good posture, gave them 20s. sent by a gentleman, and commended the surgeons. This care for the seamen," it is added, "makes them express much forwardness." The wounded had probably fought in the fight immortalized by Dryden.

In July, 1666, William Waynfleet writes to Williamson: "Southwold being an island environed with salt water, might be made the strongest in those parts; it has nine good guns, but only four fixed, and not ammunition enough for two hours' skirmishing; the town is poor, and cannot do what it would, and the country does not help, though they say it would be their destruction if the town were held by an enemy; it is the nearest town in England to Holland, and the best bay." On July 21st Waynfleet reports: "A great storm and hail with thunder and rain has broken the windows very much, and damaged the corn; the hailstones measured were six or seven inches round, and perfect ice." On September 6th Serg. J. Knight, writing from Southwold as to the arrangements made by Sir William Doyley for the sick and wounded sailors, sends a message from Doyley to the effect that he is "infinitely afflicted for the calamity of London" (the great fire), but "hopes for good news from sea; a seasonable and good bang to the foe will in some measure gratify this loss"! A few days later Waynfleet, "knowing by experience seven years ago, when Southwold was burned, the great want of many poor people for food," informs Williamson that "cheese is very low there, and if some letters were written to the knights and gentlemen thereabouts, they would load a small vessel and send it to London, to be distributed among the poor; but he wishes not to be known as the mover therein." In October he writes complaining of the irregularities of the post and post-horses, concluding with the remark that "people, being tied to the posts, the posts should be tied to certain hours." These are but a few extracts out of nearly two hundred papers referring to the borough of Southwold which are to be found in the "State Papers."

SOUTHWOLD TO COVEHITHE.

Four miles north of Southwold are the ruins of Covehithe Church. Following the narrow path which winds along the little cliff, then skirts the marsh, and anon climbs the cliff again, one finds one's self at the picturesque little broad which has furnished a subject for a sketch. Then the path

BROAD BETWEEN SOUTHWOLD & COVEHITHE.

leads along the side of a small common, bushy with furze, green with feathery bracken, and here and there dotted with a pale mauve orchis. Or one may keep by the edge of the waves for the whole distance, though shingle is not quite the most comfortable surface upon which to walk.

The church of Covehithe—the ruined shell of the church—lies back from the shore but a short distance. Originally the village was of considerable size, and its inhabitants carried on a thriving fishing industry. But the sea's encroachment, which is still proceeding, practically depopulated the place; and it may be predicted that Covehithe, like Easton Bavent (which formerly lay between it and Southwold), will in time vanish. Covehithe has another name — Northales; but to prevent confusion the more general designation will be kept.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Andrew, presents a most curious spectacle. The fine tower is still in existence,

but the remainder of the original building is in ruins. Within these ruins, however, and joined on to the tower, is a small thatched church, within which is the curious inscription given below. The quaint phraseology, "put it out," is the provincial form of put it up, or erected. A similar expression is used in Westmoreland and Cumberland. Above the south door of this new church will be seen one of the corbels which formerly supported the roof of the nave, and of which some of the companions are still in position. The south porch, of which the foundations are just visible, had a parvise chamber, for the remains of the stairway are still to be seen. As is usual with Suffolk churches, the flint and dressed stone panels bear a large share in the decoration of the outer walls and the buttresses; though these last are in a sad condition of decay, still enough remains to show what the design was originally, and one cannot withhold admiration for the graceful dado which surrounds the entire building beneath the windows. The columns of the nave have now vanished, but the fragments remaining in the tower and at the chancel show that their capitals were of a very peculiar type. The chancel, or possibly Lady Chapel, appears to have been built over a crypt; the groins of the crypt's roof are still to be seen, and also the small stair by which entrance to it was obtained. This crypt has never been cleared out as far as the writer has been able to ascertain. It is choked with rubbish for several feet, probably from the roof, which fell in. A clearance should certainly be made, and could be made at but a little cost. In the sanctuary are the remains of the sedilla, surmounted by a much damaged canopy. By a

CORBEL COVEMITHE

door on the north side of the chancel entrance is obtained into a curious little chapel, evidently of later date than the church itself. Now, the original crypt door issued from the outside of the church, but after the construction of this chapel the only means of entrance to the crypt was from the chancel, as the chapel has no other door. Relics of a rood

stair are yet in the north wall of the aisle, and niches despoiled of their canopies and pedestals may yet be seen. From the relics of tracery the windows of the aisles appear to have been very ornate, but so damaged are they that it is hard to be accurate on this point. A curious little niche of late date is to be seen upon the north side of the north chancel pier, or of the Lady Chapel (according as the matter is decided) The impression of the writer is that the chancel was a long one, and had originally both north and south chapels, which did not reach to its full extent, but were terminated where the steps of the high altar began. Beneath these steps the crypt was formed, and probably the founder of the church lies buried therein. The second north chapel was an adjunct constructed of an irregular

shape on to the last buttress of the chancel and the corner buttress of the north chapel aisle.

Assuredly a careful comparison of the beauties of the churches in this district is worthy the attention even of those who do not lay claim to antiquarian tastes.

DUNWICH.

"Here where sharp the sea-bird shrills his ditty,
Flickering flame-wise through the clear live calm,
Rose triumphal, crowning all a city,
Roofs exalted once with prayer and psalm,
Built of holy hands for holy pity,
Frank and fruitful as a sheltering palm."

—*A. C. Swinburne.*

All that remains of the once powerful city of Dunwich will be found upon the sea-washed cliff, about four and a half miles by road from Southwold towards the south. And here there is the curious spectacle of a small village which was until lately a moribund borough—a borough which through the incursions of the sea had dwindled into decay

and having nothing now to tell its tale beyond a few crumbling ruins and its undying historical traditions. To reach this interesting spot by road one needs to cross the

ferry at picturesque Walberswick, which, with Blythburgh, will form the subject of a separate chapter. As to the former greatness of Dunwich—without accepting the description given in Stow of its "strong walls and brazen gates," which "enclosed a king's court, a bishop's palace, a mayor's mansion, fifty-two churches, and as many windmills, together with a spacious harbour, in which were ships as numerous as the churches"—there yet remains authentic history of much that did exist in ancient times, and a brief recapitulation thereof will here be given.

From the large number of Roman remains which have been from time to time discovered or laid bare by the action of the waves at Dunwich, without doubt there was a Roman station here. As to the name, however, of this station, a fierce war has been waged among antiquarians without adding much to our knowledge on the subject. It may, however, be readily granted that the Roman settlement eventually became the Saxon Dommoc-ceaster. A Roman road led, it is known, from Dunwich to Bury St. Edmunds, and it is mentioned in ancient documents under the changed title of the "king's highway." In Saxon times Dunwich (Dunwyk or Dummoc-ceaster) was

a harbour of importance, and a town of no little wealth. In the seventh century it became the seat of the government of East Anglia, and a palace was built there. Ecclesiastical life, at this period, commenced in the place, and a church was built by a Burgundian monk, Felix, who was invited over to Dunwich by Sigebert. Felix became the first bishop of Dunwich, which place was raised to the dignity of a See. Saxon prelates reigned at Dunwich until the year 870, when the bishopric was united to that of North Elmham in Norfolk. Of Felix, it is traditionally stated that he was buried at Dunwich originally, his body being afterwards removed to Soham, where he had founded an abbey, and subsequently, in the reign of Canute, to Ramsey, canonization following.

The See originally embraced both Suffolk and Norfolk within its boundaries, but these were separated by the fourth bishop, to be reunited (as I have already stated) in 870, after which time the episcopal glory of the place passed away.

In the time of Edward Confessor the battle with the waves had already begun, and the royal palace and bishop's palace had been submerged. It appears that at that time there was only one church there. It was, however, a borough, and between this date and the date of the survey its burgesses had increased from 120 to 236. Three churches also were then in existence, and the rent to the Crown was £50 and 60,000 herrings in lieu of £10, so that prosperous days seem to have been again at hand. In the reign of Henry II. the place had become great and wealthy, its rent was £120 13s. 4d. and 24,000 herrings; and as an "aid" on the marriage of Maud, the King's daughter, Dunwich paid no less a sum than £133 6s. 8d. Here it was that Leicester and his hired troops unsuccess-

fully attempted to effect a landing in 1173. They, however, disembarked at Walton, and marching with fire and sword to Dunwich, laid siege to the place. Dunwich, however, was too strong to be taken, and the Earl retired discomfitted. It is curious to note that traces of the besiegers' entrenchments on the west side of the town were visible in the middle of the last century.

According to a sixteenth century MS. in the British Museum, Dunwich was most strongly fortified in the twelfth century, possessing gates, ditches, ramparts, and palisades of timber; a state of things which seems to have continued down to the reign of Edward I., when a portion was removed to make room for the Grey Friars' Monastery. During the troubles between John and the Barons the town of Dunwich took the side of the King, who appears to have granted to the borough several valuable privileges. When Henry III. was King the harbour of Dunwich was in sad disrepair, owing to the ravages of the sea, yet the place could still provide no less than forty ships for the King's use. In the reign of Edward I. this number was reduced to eleven, though belonging to the port were sixteen "fair ships," twenty barques used for trading, and twenty-four fishing vessels.

During this reign, or during the early years of Edward II., the old harbour of Dunwich was almost deserted, and a new one was opened in the parish of Blythburgh, about two miles distant. In the year 1328 the old port became completely choked up, and the ruin of Dunwich was at hand. Incursion after incursion of the sea washed away its buildings, ecclesiastical, municipal, and domestic. The Church of St. Felix with its little appended cell had vanished many years before; three churches, those of St. Leonard, St. Martin, and St. Nicholas, now crumbled into the ocean; and it would appear that in the year 1385 the shore was submerged

as far as a convent known as the Black Friars. Henry VI did all that lay in his power to revive the trade and greatness of the old borough, granting a charter, and even sending a letter with his autograph to the burgesses upon the subject of certain encroachments of Sir Robert Swillington of Blythburgh, by which their rights and privileges had been infringed.

Strangely enough, during the Yorkist and Lancastrian civil wars Dunwich was ardently upon the side of the former party, and their devotion to the White Rose seems to have been rewarded by a new charter and the grant of "wreckage." It would seem that previous to this date the burgesses had exercised the right without a charter! With the reign of Henry VII. the neighbouring town of Southwold received its charter, and it needed but the Reformation and the Suppression of the Monasteries to complete the ruin of Dunwich. In 1540 the Church of St. John the Baptist was demolished. Thirty years later two of the gates were knocked down by the waves. Help was obtained from Queen Elizabeth, who sent the distressed inhabitants a sum of money, raised, by the way, from the sale of the materials of the fabric of two Suffolk churches—Ingate, in Beccles, and Kessingland.

In 1573 the condition of the town is described (in the Harleian MS.) in a curious document dedicated to Master Deye. It has been suggested that Master Deye was identical with John Day, a native of Dunwick, who is to be honoured as the first English printer who used Saxon type. The whole of this account is full of the greatest interest, but its length precludes quotation. From it may be gathered that the town was then a "myle longe," and that it had been "three quarters of a myle brode"; that "there hath been 6 prysh churches in Donewiche," of which the

following churches and parishes were then thus circumstanced :

1. "Seynt Lenard's prysshe, now drowned in the sea."
2. "St. Peter's pyrsshe, now standing."
3. "St. John's parish, now drowned in the sea."
4. "St. Marten's psh, now drowned in the sea."
5. "St. Nicholles' psh, now into the sea."
6. "The paresh of All Seyntes, now standing and remaining."

Of the two "Houses of friars, verie fayer churches and buildings, and in specially the Graye Friars," the relics of the latter remain to this day, though that of the Black Friars (the order of St. Dominic) has completely vanished.

The Church of St. Peter's has gone also, but the ruined shell of the Church of All Saints' and its tower stands yet upon the verge of the cliff. Our sketches show the general features of these relics of antiquity; the church may be approached by all, but the ruins of the Grey Friars cannot be inspected except through the bars of the gates or from the top of the glassbottle-studded wall at the west-end of the church. I have, however, endeavoured to convey as fair an impression as possible of the monastery, considering the fact that the owner will not give permission to inspect its ruined walls. The gateway and side arch are interesting

from the fact that the smaller entrance is so far removed from the main arch.

The MS. to which allusion has been made goes on to speak of an "aunchent and verie old church called the Temple (of our ladie), the which church by report was in the Jews tyme, and was valted over.* Two "hospytalles" also were then in existence. The one was dedicated to St. James, with a "grete church and a large." This hospital possessed "divers tents, howses, and londs," for the use of the "poor seike and impotent people there." But it is added that the masters of the said hospitals were misappropriating the funds in a shameful way. The other hospital was that of the Holy Trinity, and was called the Massendue. Its church had been pulled down. Three chapels had existed in Dunwich, viz., those of St. Anthony, St. Francis, and St. Katherine; but these had been "putt down &. whan all other howses of religion ware putt down, &c."

It is curious to note that Stow, in his Chronicle, states

that Dunwich was ruled by a Mayor and three Bailiffs, and that the writer of this MS. makes the same statement. The number of Bailiffs was, in fact, only two, but (though proof is wanting) the author of the letter to John Day has upon many grounds been supposed to be Stow himself; and this singular iteration of a strange error seems to support the idea.

At the close of the sixteenth century the harbour troubles were worse than ever, owing to the mouth becoming again choked up, and strenuous efforts were made by the burgesses to get the old harbour re-opened close to the town. In 1608 one of the roads, that which formed the high road to the beach, was washed away, and many ancient foundations which had till then been visible vanished. Sixty years later the sea invaded the market-place; and, in order to save the materials, the market cross was pulled down and sold. Shortly after a large number of buildings were demolished for a similar reason. In 1702 the Church of St. Peter was pulled down, as its destruction by the fall of the cliff was imminent. The terrible storm of 1740 inflicted great loss on the now sadly crippled place. The great road from the town to the quay was washed away; ancient foundations which had long been covered were laid bare, and channels were cut by the sea through the beach to the river, rendering the shore impassable. Some curious hillocks, known as the Cock and Hen Hills, which had been forty feet high a few months previously, were levelled with the ground. On this occasion many relics of past ages were laid bare.

As may be expected, the diary of Dowsing contains entries with respect to Dunwich. The Church of St. Peter he visited, where he contemplated doing not a little damage. He ordered to be destroyed sixty-three cherubims; "sixty at least of Jesus written in capital letters on the roof"; forty superstitious pictures; and a cross

on the top of the steeple. All these he ordered the churchwardens to remove, and this they promised should be done.

At All Saints', or, as he calls it, "Allhallows," he found thirty superstitious pictures, and twenty-eight cherubims, and a cross on the chancel. It would seem that All Saints' never had a south aisle; at least the closest scrutiny of the ruins points in this direction. The probable date of the building is about the middle of the fourteenth century; but beyond the romantic nature of its situation and surroundings it hardly calls for any special remark. Upon the authority of Gardner, the historian of Dunwich, the north aisle contained curiously carved seats for the Corporation, and fine painted glass, which was broken by the glazier in a most wanton manner. The inhabitants seem to have pulled down this aisle in 1725. The rest of the church was dismantled for the sake of the value of the lead and bells towards the end of the last century.

From accounts which are extant it would seem that nearly all the brasses were lost when the aisle was destroyed. The present church is small, and was built in 1830. Upon

the south side of the chancel in the graveyard are some ruins which contain a family vault. Southwold perhaps

looks its best from the beach, midway from Dunwich shore; and, indeed, the same may be said of Dunwich itself. Certainly the solitary ruined church, standing sentinel on the edge of the cliff, may best be seen thence.

Very interesting are the Corporation plate and ancient seals of Dunwich. The mace is of silver, and weighs nearly twelve ounces, its length being only ten and a half inches. In shape it is somewhat peculiar, as it resembles a crossbow bolt, and it bears on the flat surface of its head the royal arms, duly quartered with the device of the borough. The silver badge of the Sergeant-at-Mace is in the shape of a shield, upon which is displayed a ship and four fishes.

There are three ancient seals, the two oldest probably dating from John and Edward III. The seal of the time of John has upon it a ship with two towers and one mast, on a sea in which swim four fish. A man is in the boat, and extends his right arm; the heads of two others are to be seen in the towers. The sail is furled, and on either side of the mast are the sun and moon; a flag on the mast bears the three half galleys so frequently borne by the Cinque Ports as a charge, and two smaller flags surmount the towers. The legend runs: Sigill · Burgi · de · Donewiz.

The Edward III. seal shows a boat upon the waves, from which issue the head and shoulders of a king; above the crown is a crescent and star, and on either side of the head a star. Between beaded lines runs the legend: ✠ Sigillum · ballivorum · de · Donewico; sprays of foliage supplying the place of stops. Both these seals are lozenge-shaped. The third and more modern seal is circular, and in device is precisely similar to the last named, the only difference being in the legend which is Sigillum · Admiralitatis · Donelwico.

It would appear that Dunwich as a borough never had a coat of arms, but that (as frequently happens) the device on

the Corporation seal has been appropriated to this purpose. Burke in his "General Armoury" merely describes the seal, which differs somewhat from the form already given. He says, "The seal represents a ship of three masts on the waves, the mainmast ensigned with a flag of St. George, the sails furled, the other two masts broken off at the round top, on the water four fish swimming to the dexter." He also gives the arms of Dunwich Priory as, Gules, a cross argent.

As a borough returning members to Parliament Dunwich was disfranchised in 1832, and the place was disestablished as a municipality as lately as 1886. Among the "State Papers" entries regarding Dunwich are frequent, and a few extracts may not be uninteresting.

In September, 1568, we find letters of protection granted to Sir Edward Rousse (Rous), of Dunwich, Suffolk, from arrest or seizure of his goods for one year. A paper dated from Whitehall in January, 1580, gives an order from the Council to the Justices of Suffolk to view and put in good order certain pieces of ordnance at Aldburgh, Dunwich, Southwold, and Laistoft. One, Robert Day, is to have a reasonable stipend for his service therein. On January 17th, 1583. we have an account of the examination of Peter Roper, before William Bulbrooke and Ralphe Booltflower, Bailiffs of Dunwich, touching the "bringing over of Popish trash from Rouen." One Peter Lawson, it is stated, would answer for them.

On March 22nd, 1590, there is a Memorandum of business to be propounded in Council, and, among other items, mention is made of the "Controversy between the towns of Dunwich and Southwold," of which some account has already been given. In the year 1565 we find that there were two livings vacant at Dunwich, in the diocese of Norwich; probably the parishes had been submerged, though the fiction of the "livings" was still kept up.

Under date August 29th, 1626, Henry Dade writes from Nettlested Hall to Nicholas, the Secretary, to the effect that he had made a survey of all the mariners and ships within the Vice-Admiralty of Suffolk, excepting Ipswich, Southwold, and Dunwich, which claimed to be exempt from the Lord High Admiral's jurisdiction. In 1628 a certificate of the Bailiffs of Dunwich gives the number of seafaring men in that place as eighty-two. A few weeks later a petition was sent by the town of Dunwich to the Lord Duke of Buckingham's Excellence. It stated that Dunwich formerly consisted of fifty-two parishes, all of which, save one, are now submerged; that the inhabitants are so poor that they live only by fishing in small boats; that they have lost the greater part of their fishermen in the Isle of Rhé, and in the fleet of colliers lately cast away, and "fisherfaries," besides many taken by the Dunkirkers, so that they now want men to manage their fisher-boats, and will come to present ruin if any other "press" should come among them. The petitioners pray for a protection against impressment without the Duke's special warrant.

Another petition, which is dated April 30th, 1670, is rather curious. It is that of John Friend and William Kempe, of Dunwich, to Theophilus, Earl of Suffolk, the Lord-Lieutenant of the county. The petitioners stated that they have waited on Sir Thomas Jermy in vain, and that unless they obtain their wages due for watching beacons, they must throw themselves on the mercy of their creditors and the charity of their poor town. They add that they are informed that money is in hand from the last collection for watching beacons, and pray that an account may be rendered and a new collection made for what is required. From a paper dated May 31st, in the same year, we learn that the amount due on this account to Kempe and Friend was £28 10s. on Lady Day, 1629, more than a

year previously. It must be remembered that in ordinary matters of cost, defence, &c., nearly every extract which concerns Dunwich concerns also Southwold, its neighbour; and, in fact, in almost all the "State Papers" the names of these two places appear side by side, frequently also in conjunction with Aldeburgh.

BLYTHBURGH AND WALBERSWICK.

BLYTHBURGH is a quaint little village, with a marvellous church, near which may be seen the scanty fragments of the ruined priory, fragments rendered all the more scanty from the place having done service as a "stone quarry." The village takes its name from the River Blythe, and, according to authorities, existed in both Saxon and Roman times. That it had not a little importance even in later times may be judged from the fact that, if a thief was taken, tried, and condemned in Dunwich, he was by law punished at Blyth-

burgh, and not in the more celebrated city. Moreover, Blythburgh possessed a mint, which Dunwich did not. In

the market licence granted by Henry II. the charter states that there has been a market held at Blythburgh from the most remote age. The then holder of the manor was William de Norwich, or de Cheney. Upon his death his only daughter married twice, and each husband in turn enjoyed the lordship of Blythburgh. In the reign of Edward III. the manor passed into the hands of Sir Robert Swillington, and remained in his family until the reign of Henry V., when it passed by marriage to Sir John Gray, of Ingoldsby, by whom it was leased to Sir John Hopton.

The Hoptons remained lords of the manor until the reign of Charles I., when it was purchased by Sir Robert Brooke, Knight. His successor married a daughter of Sir Samuel Barnardiston and settled Blythburgh upon her. He dying without issue about 1660, the widow married as a second husband William Blois (who was afterwards Sir William Blois), and the manor remains in that family to the present day. In old time Blythburgh had many disputes with Dunwich on questions of rights and privileges.

The present tiny village, containing a few hundred inhabitants, was once a large and flourishing town with many streets, not a few merchants' houses, and a gaol for the Beccles division of Suffolk. This gaol was in existence, though unused, as late as the middle of the last century.

Three causes combined to produce the decay of Blythburgh—water, confiscation, and fire: water, as the sea silted up the ancient harbour of the port of Dunwich, so that the vessels, which had been previously able to sail up to Walberswick, could no longer do so; confiscation, when at the Suppression the Augustinian Priory was dissolved; and lastly, the fire which in 1676 committed great devastation, and, in fact, put the finishing stroke to the then sadly decayed town. The Priory of Blythburgh by tradition was founded by the abbot and monks of

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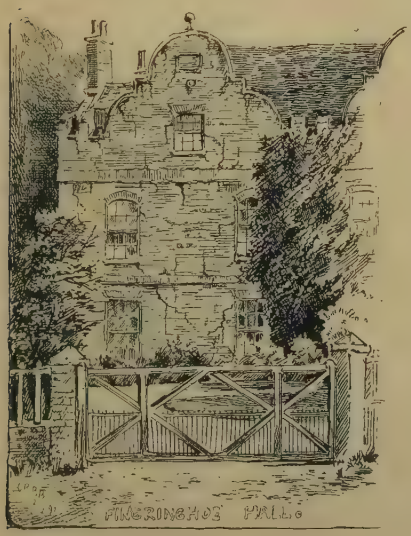
certain Richard Burre held a messuage in this manor, on condition of paying the *Maritagium* if he wished to marry his daughter to a freeman out of the township; but he was to be exempt if he married her to a freeman of the township.

By the ferry, I cross from Wivenhoe Quay to the causeway which leads towards the hill upon which Fingringhoe stands. From the top of the hill, the prospect is indeed a fair one, extending far over the level country. Before me, the narrower river glides through the meadows between Wivenhoe and the Hythe at Colchester, dotted here and there with the mast of a small boat, or the red sprit sail of a barge, which seems to grow out of the surrounding green. Behind me lies the wider Colne, which is visible as far as Brightlingsea, its banks in places of a curious mauve-grey tint, which I was at first unable to understand, but which subsequently turned out to be the mauve clustering blooms of a marsh-loving plant



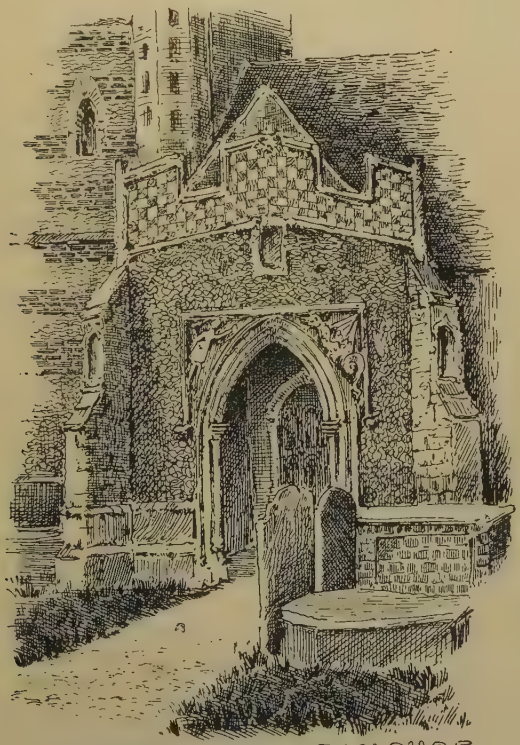
Fingringhoe is a tiny village with an attractive old manor house close by its ancient church. In the fields behind the manor house there stands an old brick dovecot. The hall,

or manor house of Fingringhoe, has three ornamental Elizabethan gables in its front, between which the parapet is crenellated. The side walls have crenellations also, but in the rear, as far as I could see, the gables are plain. Modern windows have been inserted in lieu of the ancient mullions, and the hall door, though by no means a new one, is yet of much later date than the house.

The manor of Fingringhoe was granted by a charter of Edward Confessor in 1046—it is usually supposed, as a part of West Mersey—to the abbey of St. Ouen, at Roan (Rouen) in Normandy. Be this a correct view or not, it is certain that the grant was admitted by William I. Various additional privileges were bestowed by Henry I. and II., and the manor remained the property of the alien house till the reign of Edward III., when it was seized by the King. In company with other manors, it was restored again to ecclesiastical owners, for we find the prior of Mersey presented to the vicarage in 1368. Five years later the King presented, and the same thing happened in the reign of Richard II. (1393). On the total suppression of alien priories in 1414 this estate was granted to Henry Chichley, the Archbishop of Canterbury, who endowed a college at Higham Ferrers therewith. Henry VIII. granted Fingringhoe after the Dissolution to Robert Dacres, in whose family it did not remain for long, as in 1553 we find Edward VI. bestowing it on Thomas, Lord D'Arcy of Chiche, of St. Osyth. The remainder of the changes in the ownership of the manor are unimportant.

Only a few paces beyond the hall, and on the opposite side of the road, stands the interesting little Fingringhoe church, with its square tower composed of horizontal bands

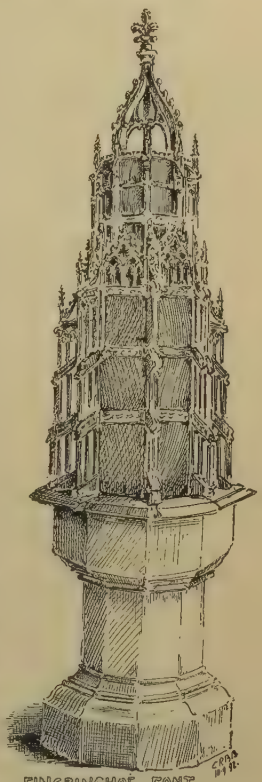
of brick and rubble, and stone-faced south-east turret stair. I have selected the south porch as the subject of one of my sketches. This porch is mainly built of flint, with a curious embattled parapet, composed of squares of dressed stone and flint. The original roof has apparently been destroyed, and a plaster gable is now seen in its place. Specially worthy of notice are the carvings in the spandrels of the



S. PORCH, FINGRINGHOE.

porch arch, which represent St. Michael and the Dragon. Above this arch there was once a niche, with an image of the Virgin and Child, but the image is gone, and the niche is ruined; the pinnacles which formerly surmounted the battlements of the parapet have shared a like fate. The inner archway is plain, but the old door, upon which the huge iron handle yet remains, is a very handsome one, the lower panels having somewhat elaborate tracery, while the upper row is even more highly decorated. The interior of the church displays careful attempts at the proper preservation of the many bits of antiquity it contains, but money is sadly needed to prevent decay—not to "restore." It is earnestly to be hoped that some kindly aid will be given to this small and poor parish, for the purpose of effecting church repairs. If only a tithe of those who seek health and holiday relaxation on our eastern coast would assist to the extent even of a small coin, the result would be achieved—and it would be a good work. Just within the south door stands the font, of which the carved oak crocketed cover, like that rare type at Thaxted, opens for purposes of use, in lieu of being raised aloft, by means of a counterpoise. The design of this canopy is very good, and the oak has been carefully cherished. Remains of several distemper paintings are to be seen on the pillars, among which "St. Michael weighing Souls," "The Vision or Mass of St. Gregory," "The Virgin," have been identified, though in all probability others would be found were investigation possible. The chancel arch has been curiously shaved off to make room for pews at its base, a condition of things which needs revision; and, in fact, the entire seating arrangements of the church are barbarous.

Within the sanctuary is a small brass to John Alleyn, late of Wevenho, and Ailse, his daughter. There is also a monument to an ancestor of Sir Bartle Frere, of Indian renown. Within the vestry is a large five-banded chest, which has the date 1684 on its lid. It now only remains to notice the strange bosses on the timbers of the roof, which are of a type of very uncommon occurrence and more than usual ugliness.



FINGRINGHOE FONT.

From Fingringhoe I make my way to Brightlingsea, a paradise for yachts. It is now growing into a large place, but hardly looks as prosperous as it did a few years back, for here times are also bad. From an antiquarian point of view, Brightlingsea may be summed up as follows: One old house, with a quaint external turret stair and a handsome church distant a mile and a half from the town. Brightlingsea was granted at the Conquest to Eudo Dapifer, who endowed the Abbey St. John's, Colchester, therewith, and consequently until the reign of Henry VIII. there is no change of ownership to record. It was then granted to Thomas, Lord Cromwell, in but a brief time to revert to the Crown, whose property it remained till the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when Sir Thomas Hennage became the owner. Some

curious customs appear in ancient days to have existed on this manor, which are mostly concerned with the succession to property and the right of heriot. One custom was as follows: "Every tenant of this manor may, for his tenement, according to the custom of the manor, put upon the commons one sheep and a half for every acre that he holdeth, and as many hogs as he may reasonably keep, to be lawfully ringed and yoked; and every cottager may keep one barrow pig, ringed and yoked."

It is not easy to obtain any reliable information as to the origin of the old turreted house. I found that many natives of Brightlingsea had not ever even noticed it; and, strangely enough, I have been unable to find any reference to the place in any of the many works on the county of Essex. As will be seen by the sketch, both house and turret are of very small size, and can never have belonged to a mansion either of extent or importance. The occurrence of a turret stair upon so small a scale is most unusual; in fact, I am not aware of any other example in Essex. Ingatestone Hall has its corner tower, the octagonal towers of Eastbury, near Barking, are well known, and also those of Rochford; but these are houses of large size, while here we have a house possessing only a ground floor and an attic, with the elegant little turret in one corner.

The sketch here given will afford some idea of the character of the scenery around Brightlingsea. It was taken on the edge of the green at the farther end of the village and beyond the old turreted house. Fields slope gently down to the shore of Brightlingsea Creek, a shore lined with

small craft and barges, while anchored boats dot the waters. Upon the right are cottages and fishers' huts; upon the left

in the middle distance a small and now useless Martello tower, while beyond stretches the shore of Mersea Island.

Brightlingsea Church, as has been stated, stands remote, about a mile and a half from the centre of the place, and upon rather higher ground, so that its noble tower can be seen far and wide. This church, dedicated to All Saints, is

a very fine perpendicular building, its west end being specially worthy of notice. Besides a handsome west door, the west windows are very good indeed, and the series of niches on the buttresses, forty in all, produce a grand effect and render the whole of this end of the structure perhaps as elegant as any to be found in this country, rich in church

architecture though it be. Near the ground a diaper of scutcheons forms yet another adornment, and I think that there will be few to deny that the noble tower of Brightlingsea is one of the sights of Essex. The church itself possesses a nave and chancel, aisles, chapels, and a handsome south porch. Round this porch runs a beautiful decoration in two bands, the upper of which consists of panel-work with trefoil ornaments in relief, the lower of trefoil decorated panels; crowns, flowers, and the emblem of the Trinity are here also to be seen. On the south chapel outside is a frieze of dressed stone and flint. Within the church there is much to interest, especially in the way of brasses, merchant marks, and rather dubious heraldry. The south chapel contains two niches, crocketed and painted, in one of which there is a mutilated statue also painted. In the nave floor is the brass of a man and wife which originally had four inscriptions, two of which are now lost. Close by the south

door, on the west side of it, there is a curious niche, probably once a stoup, the centre of which is supported by stonework.

Good bosses in carved oak appear in the roof of the nave, the pillars of which have niches cut therein; on the north side there are two, on the south side opposite there is one. At the east end of the north aisle two more niches appear, which are now partly closed. In the north aisle there are two brasses of women, but the inscriptions are lost. The monumental records have been better preserved in the north chapel. There I found the brass of John Beriffe (1578). Another, earlier, is of a man and his three wives; the brass effigies of two of them have been lost, but those of the five sons and four daughters of the first and the five children of each of the other two wives still remain. This brass has an interesting merchant's mark on a scutcheon. A third brass is to two women unknown. The fourth, and last, marks the tomb of a man and his two wives, four sons and one daughter being beneath the first wife, while the second has two sons and three daughters. This brass has also a merchant's mark, but within a circle.

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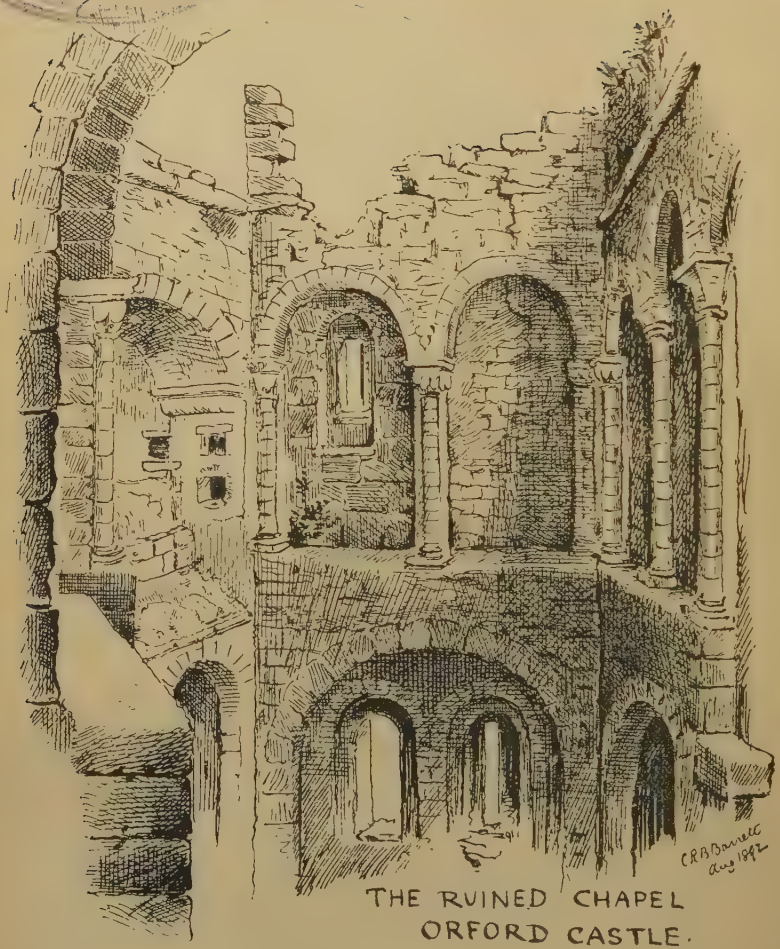


THE RUINED CHAPEL
ORFORD CASTLE.

FRONTISPIECE.

MILE END PUBLIC

ROUND ALDEBURGH.

ALDEBURGH.

ALDEBURGH, the borough on the Alde, consists in the present day of two streets which run nearly parallel to the sea. A third, which once existed, has vanished, owing to the incursions of the waves; but, as if by a miracle, the quaint old Moot Hall has been spared, and left to stand, as it yet stands, separated from the ocean by a few yards of shingly beach. Northward of the town lies Thorpe, or Thorpe Ness, and beyond this again the ruins of Dunwich are perched on the edge of the cliff—relics of past prosperity and departed grandeur. Southward, along a path fringed with fishermen's store huts, the way leads to Slaughden Quay, where the mouths of the Alde and Ore run into the sea. Behind the town the ground is much higher, and the church rests quite on the crown of the hill. So much for a general description.

Aldeburgh is an ancient place, though its municipal history does not go back very far. As a manor we read of it in 1099, when, together with the church (a former one), it was held by William Martel and Aldreda, his wife. At a later date both manor and church were bestowed upon the Abbot and Convent of St. John of Colchester, with the additional gift of all wrecks of flotsam and jetsam found between Thorpe Ness and Orford Ness. This donation was intended to enable the Abbot to

endow Snape Priory as a cell to his Abbey. But the intentions of Martel were not realized: disputes arose, and eventually, on the petition of the patroness of the Priory, Isabella, Countess of Suffolk, to the Pope, Boniface IX., a Bull was issued (1403) which rendered Snape Priory conventual, thus severing its connection with the Abbey of St. John. At the time when he was engaged upon his colleges at Oxford and Ipswich, Wolsey managed to obtain possession of Snape Priory, together with the manor and church of Aldeburgh. After the fall of Wolsey, Aldeburgh was granted to Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, as part of the lands of Snape.

The first charter granted to Aldeburgh bears date February 14th, 1529. Edward VI., from documents extant, appears to have wished well to the then new municipality, and by charter in 1547 gave the right of a Wednesday Market. Mary and Philip in 1553-4 confirmed the charter of Edward VI. Elizabeth made a grant of a Saturday Market in 1567; James I. and Charles I. confirmed the previous charters in 1605 and 1638 respectively; and after the Restoration a renewal of the charter was granted by Charles II. The ancient constitution of the borough consisted of two Bailiffs, ten capital and twenty-four inferior Burgesses. Within the last few years, however, this has been changed, and the municipality is regulated by a Mayor, four Aldermen, and a Town Council. The seal of the Corporation is rather handsome, and bears the following device:—"A ship of three masts in full sail on the waves of the sea, the main sail charged with a lion rampant, and the sail on the foremast charged with the cross of St. George; on the round top of each are four spears with their barbs upwards." The legend round it is "SIGILLUM · COMUNE · BURGE · DE · ALDEBURGHE." This device

appears to have been approved by the Heralds on October 20th, 1591. Until the Reform Bill of 1832, from the tenth year of Elizabeth, Aldeburgh had sent two Members to Parliament, but it was then in company with so many other little boroughs disfranchised. Some curious letters are extant relating to elections in the seventeenth century. One, dated 18th December, 1639, from Suffolke House, recommends Sir William Howard, K.C.B., as a candidate. Another, of December 10th in the same year from Whitehall, begs the burgesses to favourably consider a certain Captain William Rainsborrow. The Earl of Suffolk wrote the first, the Lord High Admiral the second.

The ancient Moot Hall of Aldeburgh, despite the fact that it has been "restored," is a most interesting building; it is, in fact, the only building in the town which is worth a second glance, and (wonderful to relate) its restoration

has not been accompanied by the usual ruthless destruction of all vestiges of antiquity. From an old map, it certainly appears to have been in existence in 1594; but the general style of the building shows that it undoubtedly can claim greater antiquity. It will, perhaps, be well to note the portions which are new, in the first place. The ornamental chimneys date only from 1854 or thereabouts, as a print taken just prior to the restoration shows the Hall without them. The barge boarding of the northern gable is a restoration (possibly a copy of the original) that reflects credit on the architect. The balustrading, which bears signs of renovation, is the least satisfactory bit of work in the place. Elsewhere the woodwork is in good order, and the carved details are highly interesting, especially the spandrels of the windows and doors on the west side. An opinion has been held that formerly the whole of the basement of the Hall was open, and was used as a sort of covered market; but, if old prints are to be believed, this could never have been the case. A careful examination of the building fails to reveal how Aldeburgh Moot Hall could ever have had a basement similar to that of Thaxted in the neighbouring county of Essex. As regards iron work on this ancient building, the pinnacle is a restoration, but the door hinges are of a good, though by no means uncommon, type. The ornamental brickwork between the upright timbers is plain in character when compared with the many far more ornate examples scattered over the country, of which Beeleigh Abbey, near Maldon, and Ockwell's Manor House, near Maidenhead, are typical specimens. Round about this old Moot Hall the former market place and market cross of Aldeburgh once stood. Perhaps somewhere beneath the shingle the foundations of the cross may yet remain, but its site is

not now known. According to tradition, it was open beneath, being supported on pillars.

Of the numerous inundations which caused the wreck of the town, it is hardly here possible to make detailed mention, but a few dates may be given. Prior to the reign of Elizabeth there is no record of encroachment by the sea; the place was then so prosperous that 800 fishermen were employed in the herring fishery, and 300 in taking sprats, fourteen ships and crakers being also engaged in the Iceland and North Sea trade. The inhabitants, in their petition for a Saturday Market, complain that they cannot get enough provisions at the Wednesday Market. But at that time the sea was approaching very near to the town. In 1593 or 1594 three jetties were built to break the force of the waves, but without avail, and by 1650 the town had much diminished in wealth and importance, so much so that in lieu of "fifty and sixty" vessels for the North Sea and Iceland there were then not above twelve. Eleven years later an attempt was made to revive the fortunes of the place by the establishment of a wool-spinning industry in the town, and negociations were entered into by the Bailiffs and Burgesses for one Edmund Buxton, of Stowmarket, to migrate to Aldeburgh. Buxton came and established the wool industry, but the attempt failed. Steadily the encroachments of the sea continued. In 1767 much damage was done, several houses being engulphed. A short time previously a whole street had been swept away. In 1779 eleven houses vanished in one day during a storm; and it is interesting to note that one of these houses was the birthplace of the poet Crabbe. So, little by little, ancient Aldeburgh was washed away till what was the original town had, with the exception of the Moot Hall, disappeared. But,

with the waywardness and caprice which has ever marked the action of the waves on the Suffolk coast, there seems now to be an entire cessation from encroachments, and the present town is safe.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, is large, but not by any means remarkable either for beauty or for architectural detail. As a Suffolk church it is hardly up to the mark. That this was the building given to the Abbot and Convent of St. John of Colchester is not to be believed, for the most ancient parts of it cannot date farther back than the reign of Edward IV., if so far. The greater portion of the church belongs to the earlier portion of the sixteenth century. The font is fair, and the seventeenth-century carved pulpit is of a good type. There are also a few brasses, but none of any special interest. Dowsing, the iconoclast, in Commonwealth times, as "Visitor of Churches," gave orders to remove twenty cherubims and thirty-eighty pictures from Aldeburgh Church, "which their lecturer, Mr. Swayn (a godly man) undertook, and their captain, Mr. Johnson." A good deal of money has recently been expended upon this church, which money, in the presence of such ruinous relics of antiquity as Blythburgh or Orford, might perhaps have been better spent elsewhere. From Aldeburgh, in the direction of Thorpe Ness, the road is very pleasant, passing by a tract of marshy land on the one side known as The Mere or Fen. This marsh is a grand place for naturalists. Upon the other side of the town the river Alde runs a considerable distance inland, but taking a course parallel to the sea-shore. At Slaughden Quay, whence one can take boat for Orford, or cross the ferry to proceed there by land, stands the Martello tower. The old quay is quaint enough, and the little group of houses

behind its worn and ancient timbers is picturesque. The Martello tower is not in itself a picturesque object, but gathers interest from its surroundings: the distant sea with passing vessels backs it, while the estuary forms a foreground.

Aldeburgh does not appear to have numbered any distinguished men among its natives, with the exception of George Crabbe, the poet. Crabbe was born at Aldeburgh on December 24th, 1754. He was the grandson of a retired Norfolk village schoolmaster, and the son of an Aldeburgh salt officer. His father seems to have been an influential local personage. Crabbe was sent to school at Bungay,

ALDEBURGH
MARTELLO TOWER.

and afterwards at Stowmarket. Removed from school, he was set to work as a labourer on Slaughden Quay, and was later bound apprentice to a village doctor at Wickham Brook, near Bury St. Edmunds. In 1772 he began to write verses, some of which were published. Two years afterwards he returned to Aldeburgh and his labour on the wharf. His father meanwhile seems to have developed into a bully and a drunkard. Crabbe next went to London to study medicine, and returning to Aldeburgh set up in practice. In this, however, he was not successful, and again determined to try literature. His struggles, till Burke held out to him the helping hand, are well known.

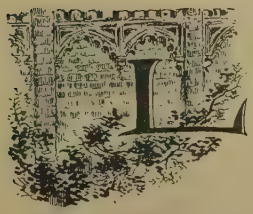
How and why he took holy orders need not be here recapitulated. Crabbe is no longer a popular poet, but his place in English poetry is secure. Hazlitt jestingly observed that he would be "a thorn in the side of poetry for a hundred years to come." Horace Smith's description—"Pope in worsted stockings"—has been repeated *ad nauseam.* But the best minds of his own time and of ours have been keenly affected by Crabbe's genius. He has numbered among his admirers (to name but a few) Wordsworth and Sir Walter Scott, Tennyson and Edward FitzGerald. One of the last things that FitzGerald did was to issue anonymously an abridged edition of the *Tales of the Hall*, with a masterly critical Introduction, which closes with these memorable words:—"Wordsworth's living successor to the laurel no less participates with him in his appreciation of their forgotten brother. Almost the last time I met him he was quoting from memory that fine passage in 'Delay has Danger,' where the late autumn landscape seems to borrow from the conscious-stricken lover who gazes on it the gloom which it reflects upon him; and in the course of further consideration on the subject, Mr. Tennyson added, 'Crabbe has a world of his own'; by virtue of that original genius, I suppose, which is said to entitle and carry the possessor to what we call Immortality." Crabbe died on January 29th, 1832. A monument bearing his bust has been erected in the parish church.

In an old tract in the British Museum may be found a curious story concerning Aldeburgh. It is entitled "A Signe from Heaven, or a Fearfull and Terrible Noise heard in the Ayre at Aldborow in the County of Suffolke, on Thursday, the 4th Day of August, at 5 of the clocke in the Afternoone—wherein was heard the beating of Drums, the discharging of Muskets and great Ordnance, for the space of

an houre or more, as will be attested by many men of good worth, and exhibited to some chief Members of the Honourable House of Commons: with a stone that fell from the sky in that storme or noise farther, which is here to be seen in Towne, being of a great weight." (Aug. 12, London, printed by T. Fawcet, 1642.) The noise seems to have been heard at Woodbridge. Two valiant men, by name "Captain Johnson and Master Thompson" (!) took horse at Woodbridge to ride to Aldeburgh to assist in routing the foe; for it was supposed that enemies had either landed there, or were attempting so to do. About half-way a large stone fell from heaven, which they saw but could not find; eventually it was nosed out by a dog! Many pious reflections are mingled with this grotesque version of a thunderstorm.

Some of our readers may be fond of that fascinating sport known as "wild-fowling." It is not always easy to know to whom to apply for local information upon such matters; hence it may be well to mention that keen sportsman, Mr. Strutt, of the East Suffolk Hotel (a most comfortable hostelry), as one both able and willing to give every assistance. Without trustworthy local information a strange sportsman can do nothing.

LEISTON.



LEISTON in Saxon times was an important place. It was then part of the extensive lands of Edric, known as Edric of Laxfield (the reputed birthplace of the notorious Dowsing). At the Conquest, the manor of Leiston was granted to Robert Malet. When, after forfeiture, the estates of the Malets

reverted to the Crown, Leiston was, among other manors, granted to Ranulph de Glanvile by Henry II. Glanvile here founded an abbey of Premonstratensians in 1182. On the Dissolution in 1536, the abbey and manor were given to Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, but were subsequently exchanged back for Henham Hall. Leiston was Crown property until the reign of Mary and Philip, when they passed by letters patent on payment of £571 5s. 6d. to one Robert Browne. James I. gave leave to a descendant of Robert Browne to alienate the lands to Henry Grey and his nephew for £2,000; but it is strange to find that the same monarch had also granted to George, Marquis of Buckingham, all the monastery and manor of Leiston, &c. It may be noted that one of the Brownes came to a very untimely end; he was murdered by his wife and Peter their man-servant, the latter being hung for the crime. In the reign of Charles I. further changes took place, and Leiston passed into the possession of the Harvey family. Subsequently it became the property of the Hon. Elizabeth Montagu (the daughter of Lord Hinchinbroke), who was married twice—firstly to Mr. Kelland Courtenay, and secondly to William Smith, of Covent Garden Theatre. Shortly after the middle of the eighteenth century Leiston passed into the possession of the Vanneck family.

The original Premonstratensian Abbey, founded by Ranulph de Glanvile in 1182, was not, however, upon the same site as the beautiful ruins which remain at the present day. It lay quite a mile distant, and but a very few relics of it are to be seen. It seems that Glanvile, who had previously founded a priory at Butley, which he had endowed with the advowsons of Aldringham and Leiston, managed to get the Butley ecclesiastics to relinquish their claim thereto, and transferred these revenues to his new founda-

tion at Leiston. His charter contains interesting bequests for various pious purposes. But we read that the first Abbot of Leiston, as a compensation, yielded to the priory of Butley all rights in the Church of Knoddeshall, a cession which was confirmed by the second Abbot. Descendants of Glanvile and of his wife's family (she was an heiress of the Valoines) enriched Leiston by many bequests. By the great-grandchild of the founder the patronage was sold to Guido de Ferre; and at the death of the latter it escheated to the Crown (*temp.* Edward III.), when it was granted to Robert de Ufford, Earl of Suffolk. When the Ufford line failed the patronage came to the De la Poles, and on the banishment of Michael de la Pole, again escheated to the Crown. In the days of Henry VII. the establishment consisted of an Abbot and eighteen monks. At the Suppression there were only fifteen, and the Abbot received £20 per annum as pension—a pension which he lived to draw for several years. It would seem that the income of the Abbey at the Suppression was not remarkably large, amounting only to £181 17s. 1¾d. One wonders how the 1¾d. was estimated! In 1362 Robert de Ufford determined to build a new Leiston Abbey, and for this purpose selected a site more inland than that occupied by the Abbey of 1182. But the old house remained, and was for years occupied by a few monks. The new Leiston Abbey, did not prosper for long, as it was destroyed by fire in 1389. Shortly after it was rebuilt upon a much larger and grander scale; and it is with the ruins of this magnificent house that the writer has now to do.

The Premonstratensians were an order originally founded at Prémontré by St. Norbert in 1119. They were known by the name of White Canons from the hue of their robes, and sometimes by the designation of Norbertines, the derivation of which is obvious.

The relics of this grand old religious house are extremely interesting and very beautiful. They stand rather more than half a mile from the railway station of Leiston upon the crown of a rising hillock. The remains of the noble church, which was originally 168 feet in length but is now a complete wreck, are the first portions of the building to attract attention. It consisted of a nave, choir, north and south choir aisles, and north and south transepts.

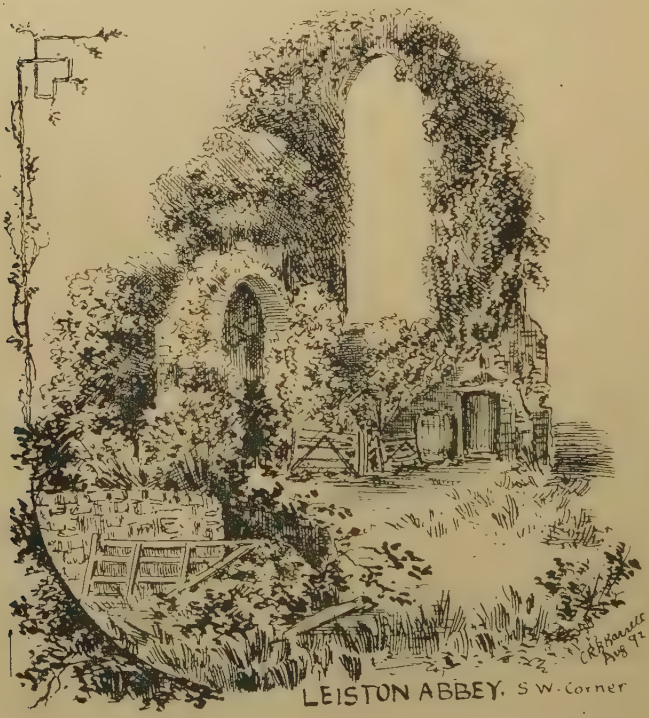
NORTH TRANSEPT LEISTON ABBEY

One of our sketches shows the window of the north transept. Alas! all the tracery has now vanished, and the wall beneath the sill has been barbarously

cut through. The north choir aisle or chapel is now used as a barn: a portion with fragments of its piers and arches is visible on the right hand of the same sketch. The east window of this aisle has, though built up, more relics of its tracery than any other in the building. The east window of the choir was of most noble proportions: its arch has now, unfortunately, fallen in, but enough is left to enable one to judge of its extreme beauty. The area of the choir is now a farmyard. Upon the south side of the church the walls are higher, and a portion of what the writer takes to be the clerestory of the nave is visible, completely clad with ivy. This portion will be at once noticeable in our other sketch.

Upon the south side of the choir aisle, though rather shorter in length, stood formerly the vestry and sacristy. Beyond this again the chapter house, now a complete ruin. A small tower partly remains in one corner of the sacristy, but cannot be easily approached, as the surrounding ground

is a swamp formed by the drainage from the farmyard. Farther again, in a southern direction, stretch out ruined remains of domestic buildings, probably the Abbot's hall and private apartments. The space occupied by a square of the length of the nave from the end of the south transept



westwards formed the cloister court, upon the south side of which ran the refectory. Of this refectory one of our sketches shows the west window externally. South of the refectory stood the orchard — a spot which is still an orchard. Between the Abbot's hall and the refectory were two small rooms, one of which was vaulted. Relics

of only one fireplace remain, viz., a recess in the centre of the west wall of the Abbot's hall. In the south-west corner on the outside of the cloister wall are remains of a small building, and close by stands the beautiful little red brick tower which has furnished a sketch, and of which the

detail has been used for the initial letter. The intention of this tower is by no means manifest. It could not have been meant as a defensive work: its date is late, and,

in fact, it must have been very new at the time of the Suppression. The brickwork is very beautiful, and recalls to one's mind Faulkborne Hall and Layer Marney Tower in Essex, or, with perhaps even more resemblance, the dovecot at White Hall, near Shrewsbury. How great the wreck of this grand abbey is the visitor will at once see, but it is **not** difficult to mentally rebuild the place and to seem to view it in all its glory. The central tower of the church was in existence, though somewhat decayed, as late as 1703, when, to make use of the materials for other purposes, a great portion was taken down. Of the outbuildings which belonged to the Abbey there are but scanty remains, and these are not of any antiquarian interest. Such, then, is the present condition of the Premonstratensian Abbey of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Leiston. The writer here wishes to express his sense of the kindness and courtesy with which his application for leave to sketch was granted by the lady of the house: every possible opportunity was given to him, and had space permitted he would gladly have taken greater advantage of the leave so freely given.

The church of Leiston is not remarkable for any particular architectural features. From the chronicle kept at Butley Priory, we read that John Grene, the Abbot of Leiston, in 1331, "relinquishing his Abbacie by choice, was consecrated an anchorite at the chapel of St. Mary, in the old monastery near the sea." It may be mentioned that both at Thorpe and Sizewell slight relics of ancient chapels exist. Sizewell is now annexed to the parish of Leiston.

With regard to the affairs of the manor of Leiston in the reigns of James I. and Charles I., we read in the State Papers, under date May 27th, 1625, a "Declaration of the King's pleasure to grant to Henry Knollys and

his heirs, in fee farm, the manor of Bowcombe, in the Isle of Wight, and lands in Leiston, co. Suffolk, as parcel of the Earl of Anglesea's £400 per annum, intended to be granted by the late King, the said lands being contained in the indenture of annexation of the 7th James." This appears to be another complication of the already involved tenure of the manor. In the year 1782 a general meeting of the county of Suffolk was held at Stowmarket in order to open a subscription for the purpose of building a ship of war for the public service. In all the sum of £17,266 10s. 3d. was raised, the little village of Leiston contributing its £37 10s. Aldeburgh reached the respectable total of £221, of which George Crabbe gave 10s. 6d. Butley only succeeded in raising £3 13s. 6d., while Orford gave nothing if we except £300 sent by Lord Hertford.

As Ranulph de Glanvile was a somewhat remarkable man, it may be as well to add a very brief notice of the chief events of his career. He is said to have been born at Stratford St. Andrew, near Saxmundham. He married Bertha, the daughter of Theobald de Valoines, by whom he left three daughters, among whom his estates were subsequently shared. De Glanvile founded Butley Priory, Leiston Abbey, and a hospital at Somerton, near Sudbury—all in Suffolk. In 1163 he was Sheriff of Yorkshire, and held that office for seven years, but was then removed from office in company with all Sheriffs. In 1173 he was appointed Sheriff of Lancashire. He led the men of Lancashire and Richmond against the Scots at Alnwick, and it was to Glanvile that the King of Scots yielded himself prisoner. Re-appointed Sheriff of Yorkshire, he also performed similar duties for Westmoreland. In 1176 he was a justice in eyre, the following year ambassador to

Flanders, two years later a justice in eyre and a member of the permanent Royal Court. In 1180 he succeeded Richard Lucy in the important office of Chief Justiciar. His services to the King, both in Wales and against the rebellious princes (his sons in France), were continued till the end of the reign. Richard I., whether from resentment, or to raise money for the Crusade, fined Glanvile £15,000, and compelled the Justiciar to accompany him to the Holy Land. Some say that Glanvile resigned his legal office, but this is not quite clear. He certainly went on the Crusade, for he died at Acre some time in 1190. It is open to doubt whether Glanvile was the great legal writer he is supposed to have been. He appears more in the light of a man of action—a warrior and diplomatist—rather than a judge. Recent views incline to the belief that for the so-called legal writings of Ranulph de Glanvile his secretary and nephew, Hubert Walter, was mainly responsible. Walter subsequently became Dean of York, Bishop of Salisbury, and Archbishop of Canterbury, eventually succeeding to the office of Chief Justiciar and Chancellor.

ORFORD.

RFORD, with its romantic keep and ancient (though sadly ruinous) church, may be reached in two ways from Aldeburgh—either by road or by water. If one proceeds thither by

water, wind and tide serving, the trip may be accomplished without much difficulty; nay, with a good deal of pleasure. The journey by land is less agreeable.

Orford Castle was formerly the centre of the town, in the days when that now extinct borough was both much larger and much more important. Beyond the obvious fact that the Castle is Norman and Early Norman, nothing else can be told of its origin. Records of a legendary and traditional nature seem to show that it was in existence and a place of importance as a stronghold, in the reigh of Henry I. The marvellous story of the sea-monster which was caught by fishermen, and for a time kept at Orford Castle, is related by Ralph de Coggeshal, the abbot and chronicler of Coggeshall Abbey, in Essex. He puts the date of the sea-monster as *temp.* Henry I., when Bartholomew de Glanvil was constable. Stow, however, places the date as the thirty-third year of Henry II., while others have relegated it to the sixth year of King John.

This legend runs as follows:—Some fishermen of Orford

took in their nets a sea monster, resembling a man in size and figure. He was given to the Governor of Orford Castle, who had him kept as a sort of prisoner or curiosity. The creature was hairy, but had a bald head and long beard. He ate fish and flesh raw and cooked, but when raw he pressed the fish first in his hands to wring out the moisture. He could not or would not speak, though torture was applied—he was, in fact, hung up by his heels most cruelly to force him to give tongue. Taken to church he paid no attention to any of the rites and ceremonies, neither did he adore the host. He went to sleep at sunset, and rose at sunrise. One day the keepers, having netted in a portion of the water, allowed the man-fish to take a swim. He dived under the nets and escaped, mocking his keepers from the safe side of the nets. To the astonishment of all, for he had been given up for lost, he reappeared a few hours afterwards at the castle. One day, however, being allowed his customary swim, he again dived beneath the nets, and, swimming out to sea, disappeared for ever. It is strange that traces of this wild legend still linger about the Suffolk coast.

But the early history of Orford Castle is, as has been remarked, scanty in the extreme. In 1215 Hugh Bigod and John FitzRobert were made constables of the castles of Norwich and Orford, but only for a few months, when Hubert de Burgh was appointed constable of both strongholds. After the battle of Lewes, in the reign of Henry III., Hugh le Despenser was made constable of Orford by the Barons. It next became the seat of the family of De Valoines. In the reign of Edward III., Cecilia, a daughter and coheir of Robert de Valoines, married Robert de Ufford, and received the town and castle of Orford as her portion. A William de Ufford died possessor of Orford in the reign

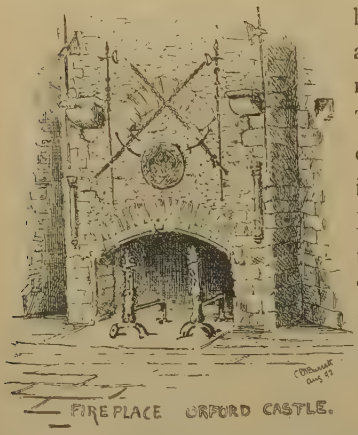
of Richard II. Upon the death of his widow, in the reign of Henry V., Robert, Lord Willoughby d'Eresby, who was descended from Cecilia, the wife of the first Ufford, obtained the town and castle. The Willoughby d'Eresbys held the place until Henry VIII.'s reign. Subsequently it passed into the hands of the Stanhopes of Sudbourne, and next into the family of Lord Hertford.

The remains of the castle now consist only of the keep, which is surrounded by a double ditch. In the latter half of the last century part of the inner wall of circumvallation remained. From an old print the wall would seem to have been about forty feet in height, and battlemented. The plan of the keep is very peculiar—nay, unique. It consists of a polygon of eighteen sides, externally flanked by three square towers, the internal face of the walls and of the

FROM THE BATTLEMENTS, ORFORD CASTLE

turrets being circular. The radius of the polygon is twenty-seven feet; and the towers, which project twelve feet, have fronts of twenty-two. The entire height of the keep is rather over ninety feet. To give some notion of the great strength and massiveness of the building, one need but mention that the walls at the base are no less than twenty feet in thickness. The entrance to the castle is somewhat

peculiar, as it leads, by means of the steps, through a small irregularly shaped building, which (part of the original plan of the castle) contains in its upper floor the remains of the chapel, on the first floor a small vestibule, and beneath this a vault. Of the curious skew-built arch, which leads into the main keep, the sketch forming our initial letter shows one of the uncommon capitals. These capitals are three in number, and are on one side of the arch only. The chapel is full of interest, for there we have the ruins of the stone altar, with piscina, aumbrey, and another recess still visible. Noticeable are the windows, rudely arcaded with their plain shafts and rugged capitals. Our sketch on the cover shows the general external view of the keep, in which the entrance steps and the chapel building will be easily discerned. The interior of the keep consisted of three large circular chambers, with a dungeon beneath, as far as its main apartments were concerned. There is now no floor to the room above the dungeon. The upper chamber has, however, been floored, and therein is a fireplace, which has furnished a subject for a sketch. This fireplace is evidently of comparatively later date; it certainly is not the original Norman fireplace, if, indeed, there ever was one at Orford. The walls of this room are hung about with weapons of questionable antiquity, and with plaques of dubious merit. The furniture here is of no interest. As a restoration the opportunity was lost: witness the skylight!



FIREPLACE ORFORD CASTLE.

In the thickness of the mighty walls of Orford Castle are not a few smaller chambers and garderobes; one of these chambers, which possesses also a fireplace, was probably the chief private apartment of the constable or his lady. The narrow winding stair, of which I give a small sketch, is picturesque. One other little bit of the interior I would fain have taken, where the rays of light shot in through a couple of narrow window slits, illuminating the quaintly twisted passage which, in the dark behind us, widens into a small and dismal chamber. Descending by the newel, one may reach the dungeon floor and investigate the deep recesses in its walls. The place has, however, been thoroughly gutted, and, with the exception of the chapel, hardly a relic of ornamental work remains. Possibly the preservation of the chapel is due to its having been one of the first portions of the castle to lose its floor, thus rendering it difficult of access. Traditions remain of a small building, known as the Kettle-house, which joined on the keep, but plans are lacking to enable one to identify its site. This building fell down early in the eighteenth century. Probably it was the kitchen.

ORFORD CASTLE

Orford Church, or, as it should be properly called, Orford Chapel, is interesting, though very ruinous. Its once beautiful Norman chancel is a complete wreck;

but few will fail to admire it in its decay, and I need hardly point out that such a series of columns as will be there seen is most uncommon. The date of this chancel seems, from its style, to be earlier than that of the castle. Originally there were five columns, but some are now gone. In most cases the decoration of each column is different, but their varieties are so obvious that a detailed list is unnecessary. The tower, from having partially fallen, presents a curious sight when seen from a

RUINED CHANCEL OF ORFORD CHURCH

distance, and upon a closer inspection appears even more quaint. Both the west door and the south porch are worth notice, especially the two scutcheons on the latter, which bear eccelsiastical devices. The device on the left hand may also be seen at Butley Priory; that on the right is common both in wood, stone, brass, and glass, as an emblem of the Trinity.

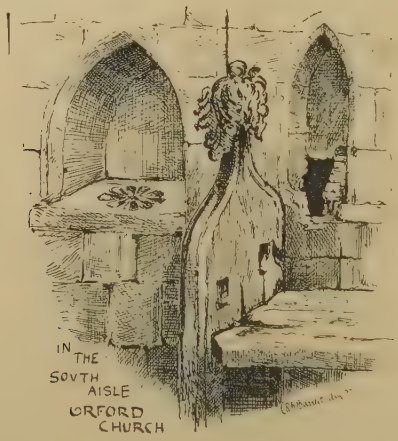
Within the church there is much cause for sorrow as to its condition. So unsafe has the roof of the nave and the north aisle become that it has been needful to board off the

south aisle to be used for service, while the remainder of the church is deserted. On the floor of the north aisle, near the west end, rest the bells, which for years have never been hung. Higher up, nearer the east end of the same aisle, the old seats of the Orford Corporation are dusty and disused. A few brasses, which by the way are carefully and wisely protected by wooden trap-doors, are to be found in the flooring: one of them is to one of the Coggeshalls of Coggeshall, Essex. The organ, large, but

much out of repair, may be crushed by the falling roof at any time. The east end, terminating where the chancel should begin, is a picture of desolation. Matters, however, are not going to remain in this condition (so I was informed), but subscriptions to a considerable amount are needed, and outside help ought to be forthcoming. Let us hope that some of those who go to Orford to see its sights may be induced to assist in the meritorious work of saving this fine old church from destruction.

It would seem as if the floor of the building had been

raised considerably at some time, for in the wall of the south aisle will be found a piscina and niche, the latter possibly a recess for a relic—so near the present ground level as to have been useless for altar service. The poppy-head on the old bench end near this is quaint and quite worth sketching.



As a town Orford has assuredly seen its best days. No longer does it possess a Mayor and Corporation, no longer does it send members to Parliament—a right which it exercised from the days of Edward I. with but a short break until disfranchised. Gone are the houses and streets which once surrounded the castle, especially on the western side, though in the names of fields memories of some of them are kept alive. The chapels of St. John the Baptist and St. Leonard have vanished without leaving a trace beyond the fact that a field is known as St. John's Chapel Field. Of the hospital of St. Leonard and a chantry not even the sites are known. Possibly a few stones may remain from the House of Augustine Friars, to

which William Mekilfelde, Esq., of Henham, co. Suffolk, by his will, 1439, bequeathed "To the Aug̃ frires at Orford xiiijs. iiiid." A stone building, on to which a new red house has been tacked, has somewhat of an ecclasiastical look about it, but its identification with the old Augustinian Friary is hardly possible.

In 1580 there was a tithe dispute between Mr. Agas, the Minister of Orford, and some of his parishioners, notably one John Coo. The Mayor of Orford, William Gowltye, entered into the fray with others of the Corporation, taking sides against Mr. Agas. The dispute was carried out with much vigour, and eventually came before the Ecclesiastical Commission, by whom it was referred to the Council. The State Papers do not contain the conclusion of the affair: probably the parson went to the wall. In May, 1585, we find that two recusants, Esdras Sympson and John Godsalfe, who had been taken in Suffolk, were examined before the Mayor of Orford. The poor men seem to have confessed and recanted their confessions; but it is undoubted that Sympson was a seminary priest of the Rheims College, and had been also at Cambridge. Of Godsalfe not so much seems to have been known. They were sent up to London and their interrogatories were continued for the space of eleven days before Rauff Rokeby, and also Walsingham. The list of depositions extant is most formidable.

On November 17th, 1617, we find an Orford shipwright sharing in a bounty of 2,022 crowns for building ships, and this is stated to be the "usual" bounty. In May, 1630, a ship laden with masts was wrecked at Orford, and removed to Aldeburgh. Nicholas, the Secretary, wrote down at once that the Earl of Warwick was to have two of them for his ship the *Neptune*. A certain William Bardwell, the Marshal of the Admiralty,

was ordered to unload the ship, and it cost him £20 9s. 0d. to do so. Next Henry Dade, Judge to the Admiralty Court of Suffolk, obtained a commission to sell the goods and to pay Bardwell. Dade sold the goods for £130, but would not pay Bardwell, who forthwith petitioned the Council.

Few who visit Orford can help seeing the lighthouses on the Ness. The story of the Orford Ness Light is a strange one, and may as well be told. By charter the Trinity House in ancient times had the peculiar monopoly of erecting lights and beacons and maintaining them. In 1634 a certain Sir John Meldrum had obtained from the King a patent overriding this charter. The Trinity House brethren naturally objected, as thereby they lost dues, and consequently opposed the erection of lights in every possible way. Some already erected by private patentees they caused to be extinguished. A light on the Lizard they stated to be needless, as no ships ever came that way by night,—this in the face of 300 wrecks there in ten years. A battle also was waged about the light at Orford. Firstly, an agreement was come to that this light should be maintained without any charge on traders for coals or upon fishermen. But this did not suit the Trinity House, who renewed their opposition. Petition after petition went in to the Council on both sides. Sir John urged utility, pleaded great public services which he had performed at Rochelle, and averred that his purchase of lighthouse patents had cost him £7,000. In 1637 the toll for passing vessels was 1d. outward and inward per ton, but Sir John was yet uncertain as to the security of his position in the matter, especially as the Trinity House men were ordered to attend the Board of Admiralty at the meeting on May 13th of that year. By this time the Trinity House

had come to the conclusion that the Orford Ness lights were "very necessary," but for motives of self-interest urged that 2d. per ton should be the due, viz., 1d. on the ship and 1d. on the goods. Meanwhile a certain Gerard Gore makes his appearance, and in lieu of poor Sir John Meldrum obtains the grant. History is silent as to the lighthouse until July, 1661, when we find a grant to Sir Edward Turner to maintain and continue the lighthouses at Warleston Ness and Orford Ness, cos. Norfolk and Suffolk, with the payment of 1d. per ton from all vessels passing, on rent of £20, if a grant thereof by the late King to Gerard Gore be void, or as soon as it became so. Orford Ness light has never since been "extinguished." Frequent mention of it occurs during the Dutch wars, it being a noted place for observation. As most are aware, all lights are now under the control of the Trinity House.

It should be mentioned that there is an excellent hotel at Orford, the Crown. Those who may pay a pilgrimage to the ancient castle and the ruinous church need not fear lest they should be unable to find comfortable accommodation.

BUTLEY PRIORY.

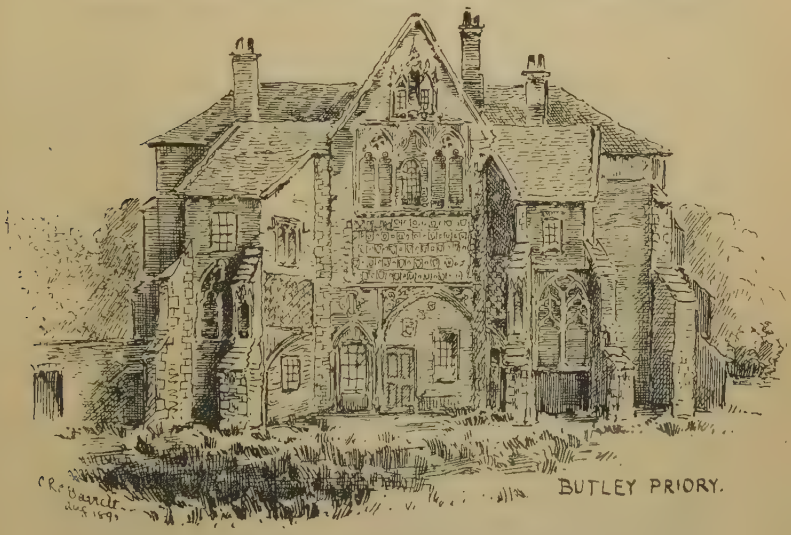
BUTLEY PRIORY, an Augustinian House, was founded in the year 1171 by Ranulph de Glanvile, shortly before he commenced his later and greater monastic establishment at Leiston. This Priory, of

which beyond two fragmentary arches nothing now remains but the gatehouse, is distant about five miles from Orford. The road thither is very pleasant, and not a little varied, though the way is by no means easy to find. The best plan, however, is to ask for the ferry, which ferry, by the way, is properly attended to. Having crossed, then take a path to the right, close by the ferryman's cottage, which leads over a small hill, and out on to a track, bordered on the left by a deep ditch, which in summer is studded with water-lilies. In front lies a wood, along the edge of which the track goes, and eventually one passes the small village "shop" on the right. A few hundred yards beyond the ruins come abruptly in sight.

We read that Glanvile acquired the lands on which the Priory was built in right of his wife Bertha, the daughter of Theobald de Valoines, lord of Parham. These lands were then known by the name of Brock House. But not a vestige of Glanvile's work remains, for we know that the convent was repaired or rebuilt by William de Aubervile. Now Glanvile had divided his possessions between his three daughters, of whom, Maud, the eldest, married William de Aubervile, receiving as her share Benhall and the advowson of Butley. Her son, Hugh Aubervile, claimed the advowson; but this was resisted by the prior and canons. Aubervile relinquished his claim.

Butley became a great and wealthy house; at the Suppression the inmates numbered eight, and the income was £318 17s. 2¾d. The house and church were both dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Traces of certain charitable bequests have come down to us, which are worth record. A sum of £8 16s. 8d., chargeable on some lands at Chesilford, in Suffolk, used to be distributed to the poor on seven festivals in the year. There

was also an alms of £7 12s. 1d. annually to the local poor. Considering the different value of money in those days, these sums represented a very large income for charitable purposes. At the Suppression the site of Butley was granted to Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, but four years later, in consideration of the payment of the sum of £910 2s. 3d., it was granted (says Dugdale) to "William Forth of Hadleigh, Esq." Mention has been made of the Priory of the Virgin Mary at Snape, about five miles distant



BUTLEY PRIORY.

from Butley. Snape was granted to Butley by Henry VII. in the twenty-fourth year of his reign, to be held with all lands and tenements belonging to it, which Thomas Neyland, the late Prior of Snape, enjoyed in right of the same; to hold in perpetual alms, and without any account of any rents, and to be annexed to the said Priory of Butley. Snape, as has been said, was originally a cell of the Abbey of St. John at Colchester, but was made

conventual and freed from the jurisdiction of St. John's by the Bull of Pope Boniface IX. We find, however, that the Abbey of St. John's disregarded this Bull, for they presented Priors to Snape until 1491. Butley Priory seems to have found Snape more plague than profit, for in 1509 all claim and title were voluntarily resigned.

Let us now turn our attention to the gatehouse. Our sketch shows its present condition, but the details cannot therein be more than suggested. It is built on a regular plan with two projections, which, in former days, were flanking towers, and which are now lowered to the level of the eaves of the main building and roofed over. The walls are mainly flint and dressed stone, and bear some very remarkable ornamentations of these materials, besides the lozenge work on the sides of the towers.

The ornamentation on the south gable, which forms the subject of our initial letter, is very remarkable both for its size and its design. The tradition goes that its diameter was that of the great bell of the Priory in former days—a bell which was sold to Hadley, broken up there and cast into two bells. This may or may not be true, but the evident intention of the ornament was a simulation of a rose window, just as the pair on the north side of the gatehouse were meant as imitations of Gothic windows. At the base of the two "towers" it will be seen that there were originally two curiously arched recesses, which are now built up. These recesses probably formed shelters for wayfarers while waiting for admission into the convent. In one of the rooms now thus formed is a fireplace, evidently a portion of the sedilia of the Priory church; probably, too, it is the only relic of that ecclesiastical building now remaining, save the mouldering arches a short distance from the gatehouse. The main arch and the side

arch have both been built up, thus converting the gateway into a private dwelling-house. The vaulting within is very plain, but very graceful. Inside the house otherwise there is not much left, and the grand dining-room that is described in such detail in Davy's MSS. (British Museum), with its gilding, pillars, painted glass and scutcheons, has now completely disappeared. We could have wished that the drawings in Davy had been more careful, and that he had taken the trouble to be accurate with regard to the fine series of thirty-five shields above the gateway, for in his day, no doubt, they were less corroded than they are now.

We will, however, endeavour to give as accurate a list of them as is now possible. There are in all thirty-five, which are arranged in five rows of seven. Between each shield is a small square stone, carved with a fleur-de-lys, and the groundwork is filled in with brick. Beginning at the left hand top corner, and reading along the lines from left to right, the shields in order are :—

1. Rauf de Mortimer (*temp.* Edward II.), or perhaps De Peche. 2. Ancient France. 3. This is supposed to be Bury St. Edmunds Abbey, but is hardly to be discovered, so much is it decayed. 4. The emblems of the Passion ; a similar ornament is on the porch of Orford Church. 5. England. 6. Castile and Leon. 7. William de Hursthelve. 8. Vere —the De Veres were the Earls of Oxford. 9. De Bohun. 10. Beauchamp. 11. England. 12. Warenne. 13. Holland, or Holand, who married the Fair Maid of Kent, and was created Earl of Kent and Baron Wake. This coat, however, might equally belong to Edmund of Woodstock. 14. De Clare. 15. FitzWalter. 16. De Beaumont. 17. Wake. 18. Mortimer. 19. Probably Powys, though it may be the coat of Mowbray. The Powys and Tiptoft families inter-

married. 20. De Ros. 21. Powys. 22. Tiptoft. 23. D'Arcy. 24. Huntingfield, the founder of Mendham Priory. 25. Powys. 26. Ufford. 27. Possibly Lacy. 28. Jernigan. 29. Hay, or FitzSimon. 30. Upon a shield (!) the crest on a wreath of Lord Rendlesham! This has been recently erected, and seems to have replaced the coat of Willoughby of Parham. 31. Bigod. 32. Glanvile, the founder of the original Priory. 33. Doubtful, but probably ecclesiastical. 34. Lade. 35. Hay, or FitzSimon. The scutcheon just above the small gateway is probably the coat of a family called Benhall. Shield No. 32, which bears the arms of Glanvile, probably also stands for the arms of the Priory, though in one authority there is for the Priory an addition of a crozier in bend. The arms immediately above the entrance doorway are those of Forth, a family which at one time owned the Priory.

WINDOWS AT BUTLEY PRIORY

The niches upon the north side of the gatehouse are well worthy of attention, and one cannot but regret that the figures which once adorned them are now gone for ever. Two windows of late date are quite charming in their way, and we could not resist sketching them, as being extremely good types. It is, however, curious to remark that among the known benefactors of the Priory hardly any of the names to whom the shields belong occur, as the following list will show:—

William Tarbus, Bishop of Norwich; John of Oxford, Bishop of Norwich; Harvey Walter; John de Gissing; John de Grey, Bishop of Norwich; the Lady Margery de Cheney, or Cressy;

Thomas de Hastings; Roger Niger and Stephen Gravesend, Bishops of London; Walter de Constantius and the celebrated St. Hugh, Bishops of Lincoln; Richard Monachus, Hubert, Walter, and John Peckham, Archbishops of Canterbury; Popes Alexander III. and Celestine III.; Lady Cassandra Baynard; John Staverton; Ralph de Glanvile, the grandson of the founder; Richard, son of Henry Naunton; William de Gisleham; Michael de la Pole, Lord Wingfield and Earl of Suffolk; Henry VII.; Thomas Ardern; and John, the Prior of Thetford.

Henry VIII. was also a benefactor. Michael de la Pole fell at Azincourt, and was buried in Priory Church.

The Forth family held the Butley property from the thirty-sixth year of Henry VIII. until 1635, when the male line became extinct; a daughter married Walter Devereux, who was M.P. for Orford in 1660. She left three daughters, the eldest of whom had Butley Priory as her portion, and married a certain John Clyatt, who sold it on her death to Mr. Strahan. Subsequently becoming the property of Lord Archibald Hamilton, it was sold to the family of Lord Rendlesham.

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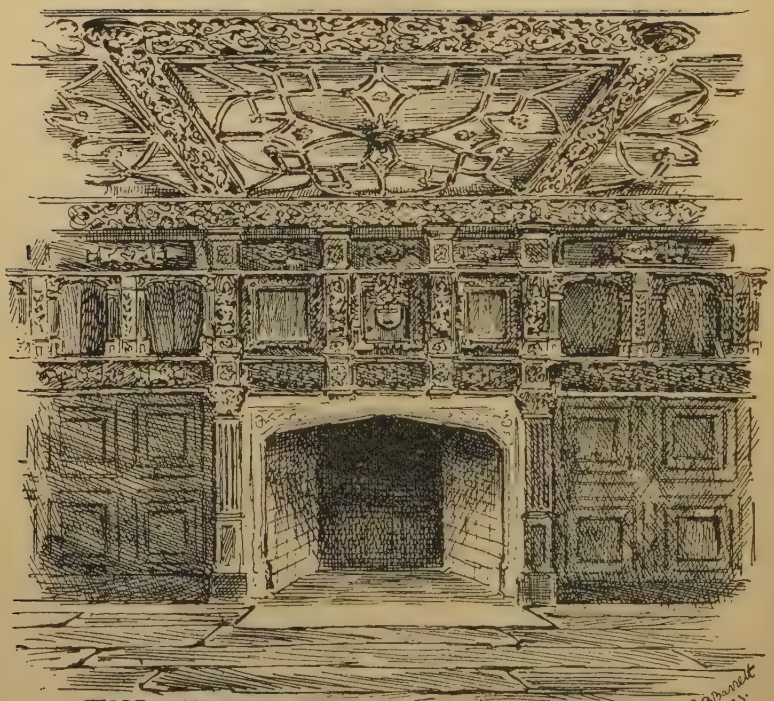


THE NELSON ROOM. STAR HOTEL. C.R.Barrett 1.5.93.

GREAT YARMOUTH.

YARMOUTH, or Jermouth, for not until the reign of Henry III. did the town receive the prefix of "Great" to its name, stands at the mouth of the river Yare (Ger or Jer in ancient times). The existence of the place is noted in Domesday, at which period it possessed seventy burgesses. King John created Yarmouth a Free Burgh in 1209, granting many privileges in his charter. Henry III. granted three charters, the first and second in 1256, the third on September 28, 1261. By this third charter the burgesses were empowered to enclose their town with a wall and moat, "so long as they well and faithfully behaved themselves." Permission to have a gaol was also given in the same document. Eleven years later, by letters patent, certain bye-laws drawn up by the burgesses were confirmed. Edward I. gave Yarmouth four charters, Edward II. one, Edward III. three, but revoked the last of

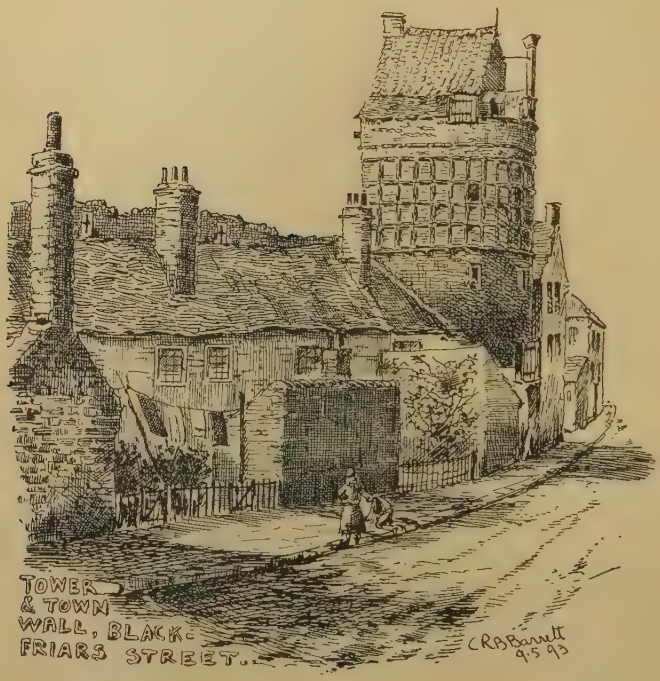
these three in 1376, owing to the disputes which its privileges occasioned. Richard II. in 1379 regranted these privileges only to revoke them in 1382; but he granted other charters in 1384, 1385, and 1386. Henry IV., V., VI. each granted one charter. Henry VII. gave to the borough a most important charter affecting the administration of justice, confirmation of which was granted by both Henry VIII. and Queen Mary. Elizabeth in 1559, in consideration of the fact that Great Yarmouth was a most ancient and important town on the sea coast, and liable to molestation from enemies, increased the already large powers possessed by the Corporation. Since that time charters have been granted by James I. in 1608, Charles II. in 1664, 1668, and 1684, and finally by Queen Anne. In ancient days the borough was ruled by Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty, but since the days of Charles II., except for a short period during the reign of James II., the affairs of the municipality have been controlled by a Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses. This brief summary will suffice to give an idea of the importance of Yarmouth in ancient days. I have mentioned that leave to fortify the borough was given by Henry III., but it appears that the actual building of the wall did not begin until the thirteenth year of Edward I. (1285). Traditionally the first fortification erected was that known as "King Henry's Tower"—a complimentary appellation—the scanty relics of which remain in the wall not far from the north-east corner of the church of St. Nicholas. This tower has passed through various vicissitudes, among other things being at one time used as a parish bone-house. By 1337 the building had proceeded in a southerly direction, *i.e.*, on the ocean

side of the town, as far as a tower known as Blackfriars Tower, of which I give a sketch. In order to make an

BACK OF TOWER ON THE WALL.

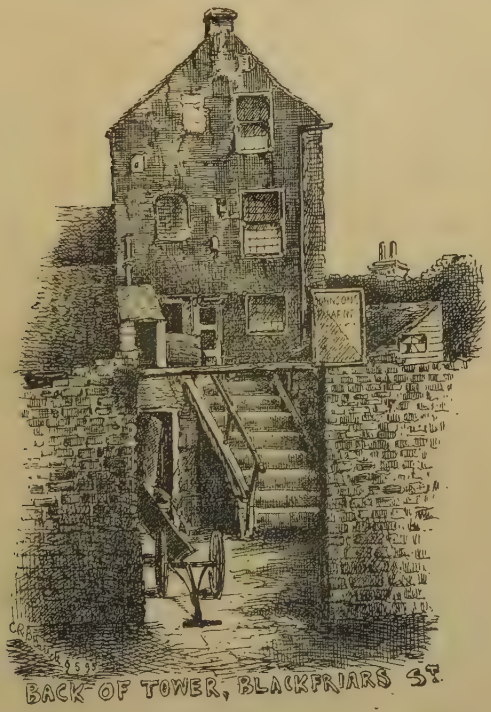
entrance to a narrow lane, at some period or other a passage has been cut through this tower, and hence it is possible to examine the building from the rear as well as to look at its interior. The ornamental brick work, which takes the form of a band of pointed arches filled in with flint, is most interesting. This portion of the wall is said to have possessed eight gates and ten towers, but no relic of the gates can now be seen; and only one other tower is to be discerned

jutting out from the wall. Of this tower I give two sketches, taken one from the front, and one from the rear. The front view shows the quaint squares of flint and brick



which decorate the external semi-circular face. A curious tile roof covers the greater portion of the top of the tower, and the place itself has been converted into a dwelling-house or cottage. Here the old loopholed town-wall shows out well, its now irregular line topping the roofs of the cottages which are built against it in a lean-to fashion. To examine the rear of the tower it

is needful to walk back a short distance where the road branches and leads directly past it. My sketch shows its present condition, lumbered up with sheds, and with a flight of steps up to its first floor. The wall from the



BACK OF TOWER, BLACKFRIARS ST.

Blackfriars Gate turned westward, and was pierced by a gate known as the South Gate, which stood not far from the river Yare and seems to have been built with two spacious towers, strong enough to bear cannon. The South Gate was removed in 1812.

In the year 1349 a terrible plague visited Yarmouth, and carried off some 7,000 persons—the total population did not at that time exceed 10,000. Building operations were suspended in consequence of this scourge, to be resumed

after the lapse of a few years. Then the wall on the north side of the town was built, the North Gate being, it is said, presented to the town by those who had become

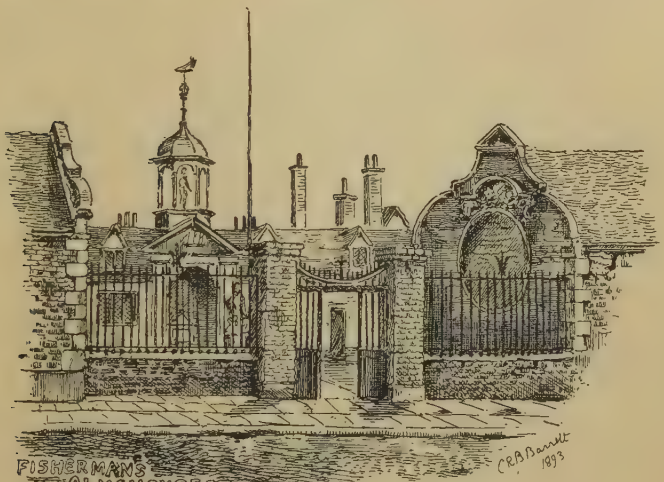
rich during the plague by acting as sextons. This North Gate, which blocked the road from Yarmouth to Caister, was both strong and cleverly constructed. It had two large square flanking towers, and a narrow arched portal. The North Gate was removed in 1806. From the North Gate the wall continued down to the River Bure, which near this point effects a junction with the Yare. Here on the very river bank was erected the North West Tower, which, as my sketch shows, is still in good preservation.

As far as can be ascertained, the mural defences of Yarmouth were finished about the end of the fourteenth century, and consisted of sixteen towers, ten gates, and rather more than a mile and a quarter of strong and high wall. The next step was to excavate a moat, and this being carried out, bridges were built at the gates and landing-stages in close proximity thereto. In addition, however, to its walls, Yarmouth had in the centre of the town a castle which had been built as early as 1330. This castle, from descriptions, seems to have been square in shape, with four turrets. It existed until 1621, when it was pulled down. Record remains of its repair on several occasions. In 1569, not far from the castle a mound of earth was thrown up and intended to be armed with cannon as an additional protection to the town. Much was done to the fortifications, in 1588, when the dread of the Spanish Armada was at its height. Two years later, a high earthwork, higher even than the town wall, was built from the South Gate to the Yare, and armed with cannon. At the outbreak of the civil war Yarmouth declared against the King and proceeded to fortify and arm. A new moat was dug out on the north side of the wall past the North Gate and beyond the north-east corner. We read that the towers in

the wall were used as prisons for Royalist captives. Towards the end of the seventeenth century the fortifications were allowed to fall to ruin, and the cannon were removed. In less than another hundred years the Corporation had begun to pull down and cart away the town-gates, on the ground of convenience. Four were demolished in 1770, and one in 1785. Another gate vanished in 1804. Four only were then left, viz., the North Gate, the South Gate, and two others known as the Market Gate and the Pudding Gate. The Pudding Gate, from a description given of it, seems to have been perfect till about 1840, being furnished with its old oaken and iron-bound doors and grated wicket. A groove for the portcullis was also in the arch, but the portcullis itself had seemingly been removed at some earlier date, as it is left unmentioned.

Yarmouth possesses a long and extensive market-place, the largest perhaps in any town. On its eastern side in one corner stands the Charity School, the front of which has quaint stone figures of a boy and girl clad in the costume of past days. At the other end of the market-place the open space widens into a square known as Church Plain. The grand church of St. Nicholas and the vast graveyard block the northern side, while the interesting old group of buildings known as Fishermen's Almshouses occupies a part of the east side of the square. This almshouse or hospital was erected by the Corporation of Yarmouth in 1702, though the endowment was of older date. It is a picturesque little building with ornamental gables, which encloses three sides of a courtyard, tall iron railings and a gate shutting off the fourth side. In the centre of the courtyard stands a

figure of Charity, near which is an alms-box. Above the small arched door in the centre of the east side is a carving



of a fishing-vessel, and from the roof above projects a cupola topped by an ornamental vane; within the cupola stands the effigy of St. Peter, the patron saint of fishermen.

Close to the Fishermen's Hospital will be found the restored remains of the old Priory, which are now used as schools. Yarmouth Priory was founded early in the twelfth century as a cell of the Priory of the Holy Trinity at Norwich, and supplied chaplains for the services in the then new church of St. Nicholas. Of the Priory buildings the Great Hall used now as a schoolroom is the chief relic. Its length is sixty feet and breadth thirty feet, with an open timber roof and some remains of a carved stone screen.

Of the monastic house of the Dominicans or Black

Friars in Yarmouth no trace now remains, and the memory of the powerful preaching order is only kept alive by the name Blackfriars Street. The Dominicans were first established in Norwich in 1226, and forty-one years later a branch of them was settled in Yarmouth, it is said, by the King. Their convent, according to William of Worcester, was finished in 1273. The Dominican order professed poverty; but be this as it may, in a comparatively brief space they became very wealthy in Yarmouth, where the extent of ground enclosed by their precincts was very great, and, roughly speaking, comprised the southern end of the town from the tower on the wall, to the river bank near the South Gate. At the Suppression the lands and buildings of the monastery were granted away by the King, and seem to have been shared among two or three persons, changing hands more than once during the next fifty years. No trace of the church remains, its ruins having been used to repair the town wall, which, at or near that spot, formed the boundary of the precincts. Carved stones, evidently of ecclesiastical origin, have been from time to time discovered in the walls hereabouts. Of the Franciscans or Grey Friars in the centre of the town more traces still remain to us. Their house and church was situated in Queen Street, and of the cloisters the relics are still to be seen. One of the rows bears the name of Grey Friars' Cloisters, and at the bottom of this row one of the old arches is yet visible. It is possible on application to obtain admission to the interior, where a part of the groined roof has luckily still been preserved. The Grey Friars came to Yarmouth in the first half of the thirteenth century, according to one account, and the founder's name is given as Edward II.

Another version gives the date as later, and the name of the founder as Sir William Gerbrigge, Kt., who is known to

have been a bailiff of Yarmouth in 1271. Not far from "Grey Friars' Cloister" Row, on the opposite side of the street (Middlegate) will be seen a much-damaged arch. It is possible that this may have belonged to some portion of the monastery, but I have been unable to find any record enabling me to identify it. From the presence of the small filled-up arched doorway near, however, it seems certain that the arch is in its original position.

At the Suppression the Grey Friars' Monastery was granted to the Vicar-General, Thomas Cromwell, Earl of

Essex. On the disgrace and execution of Cromwell, the Grey Friars passed to his nephew Williams (the ancestor

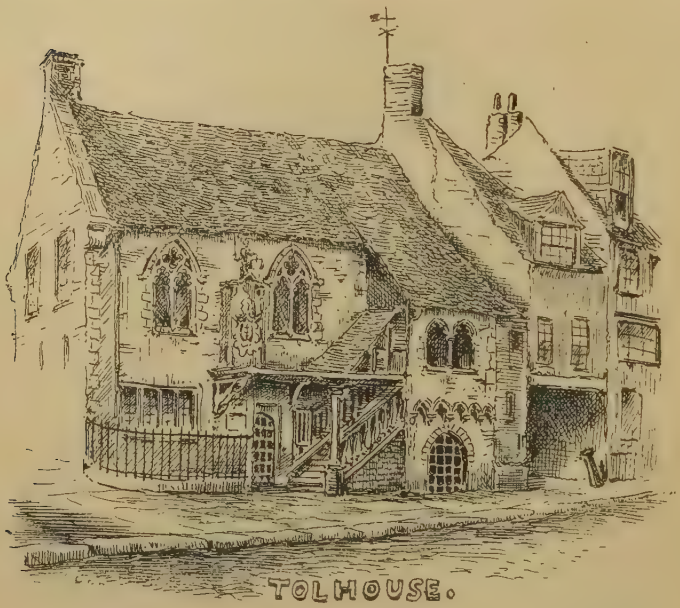
IN MIDDLEGATE STREET.

of Oliver Cromwell), who received the gift from the King in consideration of his good services as one of the Visitors of Religious Houses. Williams assumed the name of Cromwell, and among his various monastic spoils may be numbered Hinchingbroke Nunnery, Hunts, where his son built a house which for several generations remained the home of the family. The White Friars or Carmelites were also established in Yarmouth. Their monastery, dedicated to St. Mary, was situated in the northern end of the town, between the river Bure and the market-place and Church

Plain. Of the conventual buildings no relics are now left. It is stated that the White Friars was burnt in 1509. Whether it was rebuilt appears to be doubtful, for only the grant of the site is mentioned at the Dissolution. In addition to these religious houses, there was an Augustinian establishment at Gorleston, and a hospital of St. Mary in Yarmouth, besides various leper houses at both places. Until 1548 there was also a church of St. Mary (Ultra Pontem—so-called because it stood on the South town side of the river). Its stones were used at that date to repair the harbour. Opposite to this church it is known that a hermitage once existed, though the date of its foundation is unknown. The building itself, or what was left of it, remained until the year 1704, when by order of the Corportion it was demolished.

The Tolhouse or Tolhouse Hall, formerly the gaol, and the place for the receipt of municipal tolls, is a most interesting relic of antiquity. Though now entirely converted from its original use—for the gaol has become a museum and the other portion of the building a free library—its conversion is in no way to be regretted, seeing that for municipal purposes the upper portion was too small, and for use as a prison the basement and vaults were totally unfit. The Tolhouse has been restored, and the work has been done well, and with all reverence; hence it is that the place retains its antique character without any of those painfully glaring inconsistencies so frequently to be met in restorations, private, corporate, or clerical. This building is known to have existed in 1362, when it was left by will by Stephen de Stalham to his wife Agathy for life. Stalham had purchased the property from the executors of William atte Mawe. Subse-

quently the Tolhouse came into the possession of the Corporation, though the exact date does not seem to be known when



they acquired it. It was out of repair in 1552, and was ordered to be repaired with despatch. Seventy years later the large upper room was appointed to be fitted and used for the assemblies of the Corporation, who, previous to that date, had met at the ancient Guild-hall. During the Rebellion this chamber was employed as a place of meeting for the officers of the garrison, who here held their councils of war. The external staircase leads up to a good early English doorway with dog-tooth ornaments. This little entrance landing is lighted by a two-light window of early English

date, which is unglazed. The large room is a handsome one, with a fine roof, and contains, besides the reading-room fittings, a few municipal curiosities. Its windows are fitted with modern stained glass, containing the coat armour of departed Yarmouth worthies. The basement and vaults of this old building are most interesting. At the foot of the external staircase, the original door and the original grated wicket are still in their place, and on passing through them, the hold or common prison is reached. This room is now used as a museum of local antiquities and curiosities. The cells in the vaults beneath are horrible places; as being most perfect specimens of old-time prison accommodation, they are singularly interesting. Seats, doors, bars, and bolts are all perfect, and in their due place. In the outer common room, on to which the cells open, a few remains of prison implements are preserved. It was to the Tolhouse that Sarah Martin, the charitable seamstress of Caister, was wont to come to visit and teach the prisoners. Relics of this philanthropist are to be seen in the museum, and also in the parish church. Sarah Martin died at Caister in 1843, and was buried in the churchyard there.

The original parish church of Yarmouth was dedicated to St. Bennet, and it is known to have been in existence in the time of Edward Confessor, but the date of its foundation is unknown, though the work has been ascribed to St. Felix, Bishop of Dunwich, A.D. 636. The present church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, was undoubtedly founded by Herbert de Losinga, the first Bishop of Norwich, about the year 1101, when it replaced the former Saxon church. Herbert de Losinga, a truly remarkable man, was born about the year 1054. He was the son of Robert de Losing, at a

later date Abbot of Winchester. The place of his birth has been the subject of great dispute. He was educated in the monastery of Fécamp, in Normandy, and became a Benedictine about 1075. Herbert de Losinga was chosen Prior of Fécamp, and a few years later (1087-88) was invited to England by William II. to become the Abbot of Ramsey. He ruled the Abbey wisely for four years, when, on the death of William, Bishop of Thetford, Herbert purchased from the well-known Ralph Flambard the appointment to the vacant bishopric; the sum paid being variously estimated at £1,000 or £1,900. This purchase was, of course, simony — an ecclesiastical offence; but Herbert was duly consecrated by Thomas, Archbishop of York, the See of Canterbury being vacant at the time. It is at this date that, presumably by purchase, he obtained for his father the office of Abbot of the Winchester House of Hyde. Robert de Losing died in 1098. In 1094 Herbert determined to proceed to Rome to resign his bishopric, being moved to this it is said by repentance for his act of simony. He met the King at Hastings on his way, and was degraded; still he did not give up his purpose, but proceeded to Rome, made his submission to Pope Urban, resigned his bishopric, and was at once reinstated. Herbert there obtained leave to remove the See from Thetford to Norwich. It is stated that, as a penance for simony, the Pope imposed the task of building certain churches and monasteries within the diocese, and that these were duly erected. Of these churches, that of St. Nicholas, Yarmouth, was one, the fifth and last. Herbert is said to have been Chancellor in 1104; he is known to have filled many important offices, being sent on one occasion as Ambassador to Rome. He

died July 22, 1119, aged about sixty-five, and was buried before the high altar in Norwich Cathedral. His tomb has unfortunately been destroyed. Bishop Herbert was undoubtedly a very covetous man, and several instances of this failing are given. As a prelate, he was a success, having great powers of administration. He was also a celebrated preacher, and no mean scholar. Some fourteen of his sermons remain to us, and also his "Letters" Three other works are known to have been written by the Bishop, viz., "On the Length of the Ages," "On the End of the World," and "A Book of Monastic Constitutions," but these are now lost. So much, then, for the founder of what is now the largest parish church in the kingdom.

The church of St. Nicholas, Yarmouth, is now 236 feet in extreme length and 112 feet in breadth, giving when its area is computed a floor space of 23,265 square feet; St. Michael's, Coventry, which is both longer and wider, viz. 252 by 120, having only a superficial area of 22,080 square feet. The fact that the ground plan of neither church is rectangular accounts for this at first sight absurd result. Of Herbert's church nothing now remains except the tower, and that is by no means in its original condition, owing to the subsequent insertion of the tall arches therein. Traces of Norman work are, however, visible in the tower. St. Nicholas was added to in the reigns of John and of Henry III., record remaining of extensive ornamentations and a solemn dedication service in the middle of the thirteenth century. The course followed during these enlargements was probably as follows. *Reign of King John.*—A new and longer nave, in fact the nave of to-day, but pierced with eight piers and arches, and

possessing narrow north and south aisles; the roof marks of the aisles being still visible. *Reign of Henry III.*—The narrow aisles were pulled down and the present wide ones were built. On entering the church of St. Nicholas, it is almost impossible to help a feeling that the building is not as other places, unlike, in fact, any other church. A reason for this is immediately supplied when the relative breadths of the nave and aisles are considered. Each aisle measures 43 feet, and the nave only 24 feet. Hence, when looking diagonally across the church from either the south-west or north-west corner, the place seems a forest of columns alternately octangular, circular, and clustered. Probably the cause of these aisles being so constructed arose in the pressing need for accommodating the various mortuary and guild chapels which at that date so frequently lined the walls and filled the aisles of ecclesiatical buildings. Record of eighteen in Yarmouth Church remains to testify to their number there.

About the year 1330 it was determined to build at the west end of the church an entirely new structure to accommodate these chapels, the dimensions of which were 107 feet by 47 feet. Building operations commenced, but were stopped by the plague in 1348. Judging from the lapse of time, eighteen years, the new west end does not appear to have received large pecuniary support. In 1302 a detached charnel-house, with a chapel over it, was erected by a certain Sybilla Flath, who also furnished an endowment. The site of this charnel-house was to the south of the south-west corner of the church, and a few relics of the foundations can yet be seen. The exact date of the erection of the chancel aisles is not known, but tradition has generally

ascribed them to the last half of the thirteenth century, and it has been asserted that they were consecrated by Bishop Middleton in 1286. The next alteration in St. Nicholas' Church was the extension and heightening of the transepts, the accepted date of this being about 1325. Then it was that the windows above the transept arches and within the church were blocked, they having previously been windows to the tower. With the age of perpendicular architecture came, of course, the insertion of perpendicular windows in lieu of those previously ornamenting the church. With regard to the spire, it appears that owing to a fire caused by lightning, as long ago as 1683, the original spire became unsafe. In 1807 it was pulled down and the present spire erected, by many feet less lofty than its predecessor, and decidedly a most inartistic structure. The interior of St. Nicholas' Church is pre-eminently a "show place;" curiosities framed and labelled hang on its walls, glass cases are not infrequent, and a progress round the church is suggestive of a visit to a rather scantily-furnished museum. Some of the "exhibits" are, however, worth seeing, especially the books and the quaint revolving bookstand; but would it not be preferable to collect these curiosities into some special corner of the church where they might be more appropriately inspected? It is urged that the donations of visitors assist greatly the restoration fund, and that the curiosities, such as a whale's skull, are attractive. Still, there is a fitness of things which ought to be considered, and I submit that a slight reform is in this case called for. The internal restoration has been in the main done well, though opinions will certainly differ as to the merits of the stained window and mural decoration at the west end of the

south aisle. The pulpit, an enormous structure, platform rather than pulpit, measuring nearly 11 feet by 4 feet, is highly esteemed locally. It is undoubtedly a fine piece of carving, good both in design and execution, but upon the score of ecclesiastical correctness cannot be commended. The grand organ, which now stands on either side of the chancel, and which is played from the stalls, was built in 1733 by Abraham Jordan, of London. Originally large, it has at various times received important additions, and is in these days justly celebrated. It should be added that until 1869 it stood at the west end of the church, when it was removed to a gallery in the north transept. In this situation it was not a success, and hence it was divided, and the two portions set up where they now stand; an old organ case from the church of St. Peter's, Mancroft, Norwich, being most judiciously purchased to enclose that part of the organ which stands in the south aisle. Whether the "pair of organs" will remain where they at present stand is doubtful, for a "restoration" scheme is afoot, to judge from a framed model which adorns the church-wall.

Yarmouth Church is unfortunately not rich in monuments, thanks to the zeal of Parliamentarian visitors, and the "improvements" effected by various unqualified persons at sundry times. Not one ancient brass remains, and, indeed, the fate of the brasses of Yarmouth is known: they were made into weights. In the wall of the south aisle is the restored Fastolfe tomb; in the north aisle wall is a canopied tomb known as the "Prior's"; and in the north chancel aisle beneath a canopy is a plain slab, the burial-place of some person unknown, unless, indeed, it is an "Easter tomb." Here there is also the fragmentary canopy of

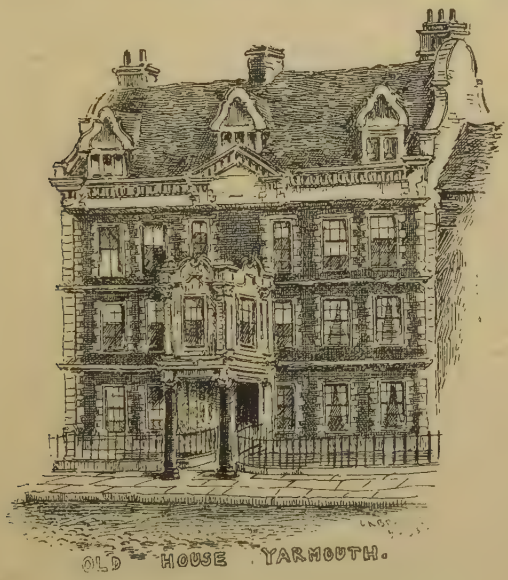
Crowmer's altar tomb, beneath which are collected a few broken pieces of carved stone, and a most curious child's body stone, which bears in relief on its surface a rather puzzling device. This device is formed of an arrangement of cross crosslets, standing upon a diagonally crossed square; but I rather fancy that a portion of the design is a merchant's mark, from the presence on one side of two streamers. Thomas Crowmer was a man of great wealth and high repute in Yarmouth during the latter portion of the fifteenth century. He served as a bailiff of Yarmouth seven times between 1470 and 1497.

The changes experienced by the parish church of Yarmouth as regards its internal arrangements are most startling, and their bare recital is all that I can attempt. The Reformation found the church gorgeously decorated and handsomely equipped with all kinds of vestments, vessels, and plate; its numerous side chapels equally richly furnished, its windows filled with painted glass, and its wall and pavements studded with monuments. With the Reformation these all passed away, as also did the custom of performing guild plays or mysteries within the church. The rood and rood loft were destroyed, the windows broken, the reredos demolished. Within a few years the brasses were sacrificed, and even the gravestones were taken up and sold. When with the triumph of the Cromwellian party the Nonconformists came into their inheritance, a division of the mangled remains of Yarmouth church took place. The Presbyterians seized the north aisle and walled it off from the nave. The chancel and its aisles fell as a spoil to the Independents, who, to make themselves comfortable therein, built up the eastern side arches of the transepts and

that of the tower; but finding themselves without a doorway, proceeded to break one through the church wall. The spot selected was that occupied by Crowmer's altar tomb, which was demolished, the canopy being left as a head to the door. The remainder of the church was used by the Episcopalians, who, being forbidden their own prayer-book, had to do as well as they could with a service of extempore prayer, psalms, and lessons. The Restoration cleared out the Independents and the Presbyterians, but did not restore the church to its original condition; in fact, the walls erected to block off the nave remained until 1847, while those built by the Independents were not pulled down till 1864. It is true that the chancel was used, for a door was cut through, and the practice obtained of leaving the nave for the chancel after the sermon whenever there might chance to be a celebration. Large though it is, the church at Yarmouth is one of which it is most difficult to get a picturesque view; and despite the fact that its churchyard is of most unusual size, I completely failed in my endeavour to obtain a satisfactory sketch. From the distance only is it possible, hence it is that my sketch of Yarmouth Church is included in Caister.

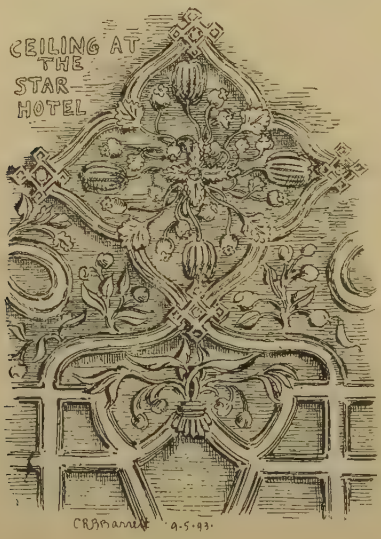
The ancient houses of Yarmouth now claim attention. Of these there are not a few, though in most cases modern fronts have replaced the original. The most picturesque exterior in the town will be found on the South Quay, and it will be easily recognized. This house is built of smoothed squared flint with ornamental gables and dormers—I remember no better example of squared flint except the beautiful house at Chard, in Somersetshire. The windows seem to be framed in dressed stone; and there is, moreover,

an extremely elegant porch, in which is a tiny room. The Dutch feeling in the whole of this interesting architectural



relic is most obvious. Similar dormer windows are to be seen in various parts of the town, notably at the lower end of Middlegate Street, where two examples occur. One of the Middlegate Street houses has also a rather uncommon date medallion on its front, from which unfortunately the date has vanished. On Hall Quay will be seen two more squared flint houses, both of them being now hotels, viz., the "Duke's Head" and the "Star." The "Duke's Head" has on its front a carved stone bearing the date 1601 above the initials R.I., and an elegantly executed knot device. The Star Hotel, however, requires more

lengthy notice. This house was built by William Crowe, a Yarmouth merchant, who served as bailiff of Yarmouth in 1594 and again in 1606. The Crowe family belonged to Suffolk, their manor house in that county being named Crowe's Hall. This house still exists near Debenham: it is moated, possesses a gate-house, and has, I understand, within it a fair staircase and some good panelling. William Crowe, a younger son, settled in Yarmouth, and joined the company of Spanish Merchants. Prospering in trade, he built the house now known as the Star Hotel, and much of his handiwork remains to this day. The great hall, now used as a bar, possesses an



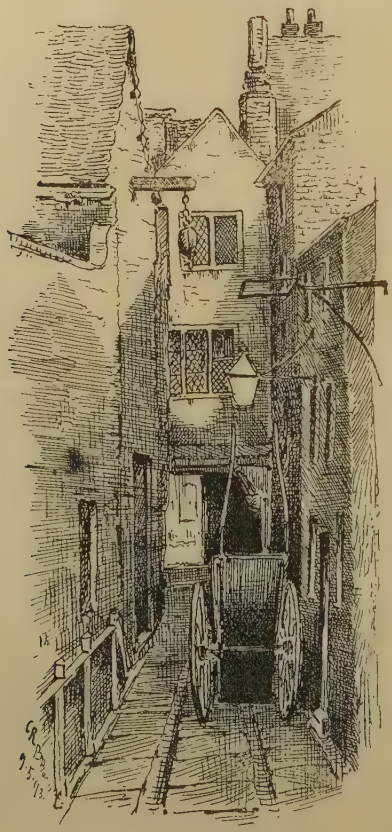
extremely fine ceiling and two of the original windows. One of these windows has the mullions carved on the out-

side with a handsome and elaborate pattern. The ceiling of this room, despite the fact that it has been in past time not a little ill-treated, deserves close study. Of one portion of it I give a sketch. The design is very bold, being geometrical with conventional floral enrichments, among which poppy seeds occur mingled with melons. The pendants, one of which I insert here, while I have already used another for my initial letter, are very remarkable. Some of them are unfortunately missing, and ordinary knobs of plaster have been substituted in two places for the five grouped blossoms shown in my sketch. It will be noted that, in putting up the bar partition, the irons of two of these blossoms were bent inwards to afford room. The other pendant is most interesting, for it bears two pairs of heads with eagles between them: the heads, as I take it, being those of Mary Queen of Scots and James I. A frieze of conventional foliage runs along beneath the ceiling, and seems to me to be of slightly earlier date than the ceiling itself. I have also a belief that if the plank casing of the cross-beam was removed, a decorated one would be found beneath it. A fireplace discovered elsewhere has been appropriately placed in this room, and has been lined with some Dutch tiles. The floor of this hall is above the street level, and the entrance doorway to the stair leading down to the quay is old and of fairly good type. But the glory of the Star Hotel consists in the large first-floor room known as the Nelson Room. This room is lined throughout with well-preserved and ornately carved panelling. The

lower portion is plain, with square panels and fluted columns at intervals. Above this runs an elaborate band, and above this again a series of richly-carved arches in each panel, the whole being surmounted by a set of decorated long flat panels. Then comes the ornate plaster frieze, and finally the beautifully decorated ceiling with heavily moulded beams and pendants. Curious cupboard doors are to be found here and there in the panelling, and the entrance to this room opens out of a small square projecting lobby within the room itself. Above the fireplace are three panels: the frames are all carved, but the centres of the outer ones are blank. The middle panel bears the arms of the Spanish Merchants, though, unfortunately, evil hands have somewhat ill-treated the carving. The "Spanish Merchants," who were incorporated by Queen Elizabeth, must not be confused with the Merchant Adventurers of England, who dated their charter from the year 1505, and bore different arms. The blazon of these arms is as follows: Azure in base, a sea with a dolphin's head appearing in the water all proper; on the sea a ship of three masts, in full sail, all or, the sail and rigging argent; on each sail a cross gules, on the dexter chief point the sun in splendour; on the sinister chief point an estoile of the third; on a chief of the fourth the cross of St. George charged with the lion of England. Crest:—Two arms embowed issuing out of clouds all proper, holding in the hands a globe or. Supporters:—Two sea-horses, argent finned or. The same coat is said to exist elsewhere in the town. At the Star Hotel it will be noticed that the supporters were never carved, that a part of the mantling has been destroyed, and that the globe of the

crest is lost. Crowe, also William, the son of the builder, purchased Caister Castle from Sir William Paston in 1659, and, having given up business, used Caister as his country residence, while the house on Yarmouth Quay served him for a town house. This second William Crowe lies buried in Caister Church, where his monument still exists. He also appears to have borne arms, for on his monument I find a shield as follows:—Gyronny of eight sable and or, on a chief of the first two leopard faces of the second. In the yard of the Star Hotel are a few corbels built into the wall, which may possibly be relics of the Augustine Priory hard by. The fragment of a stone screen built into the "Row" wall on the south side of the Hotel had probably the same origin. This fragment (now upside down) has three panels, each of which consists of a shield in a quatrefoil surmounting two smaller quatrefoils. The story that Bradshaw the regicide lived in this house is a fiction. Not so long ago the house next door, now known as the Cromwell Hotel, included much that was most interesting in its back court; these buildings have, however, been destroyed, but a few relics are preserved at the Tolhouse. In several other houses in the town fine carved panelling is to be seen, but being private residences, it is naturally not easy to obtain admission. One gable in Queen Street is curious enough to be worth a sketch. It bears on its face the date 1659 worked in iron. Many other

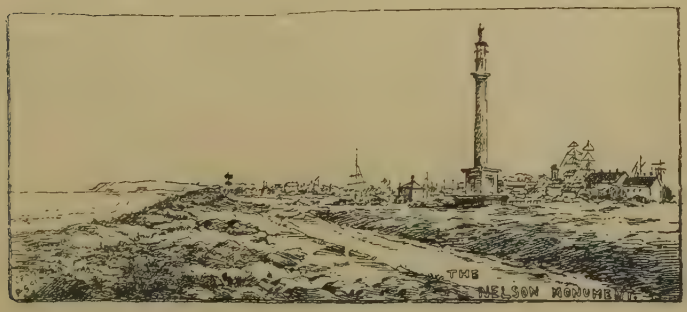
specimens of this peculiar iron-work may be noticed in various parts of the town; in some cases the patterns take most ornate forms, being worked into designs containing the merchant's mark of the builder of the house. A splendid example is to be seen in the Tolhouse. Technically these

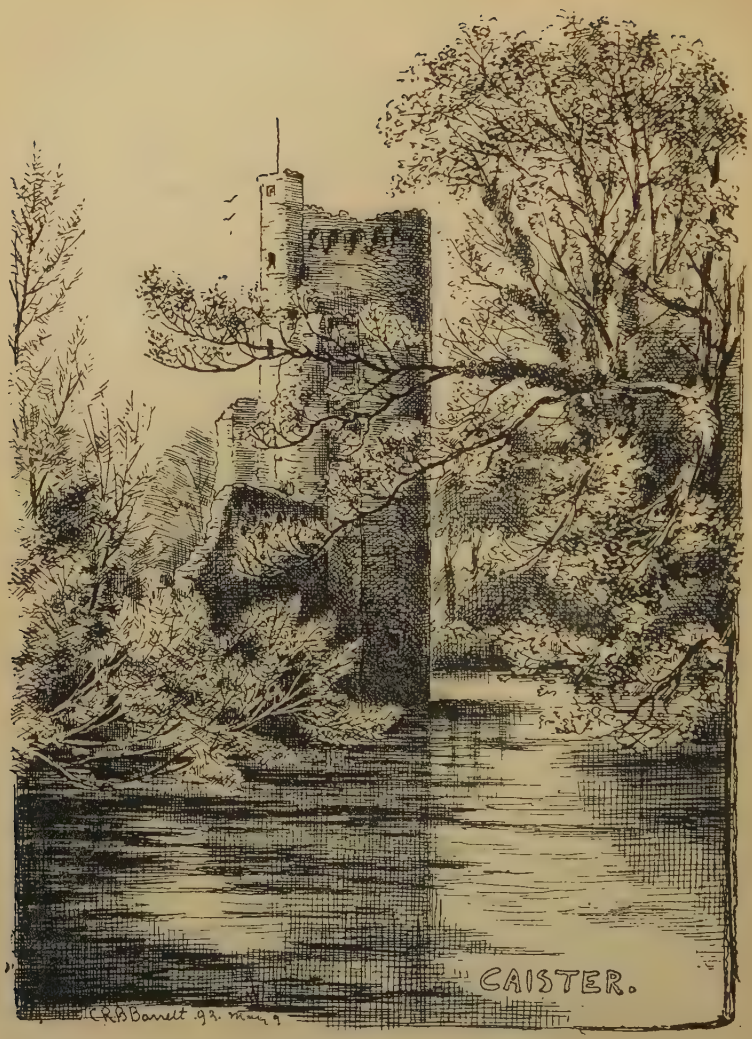


ROW 83.

irons are known as "Tapestry" irons. When sketching in Yarmouth, where so much is picturesque, it becomes a matter of no little difficulty to determine which "Row" should be taken as a subject for illustration. I wandered up and down several score of these curious byeways, and finally decided on Row 83, which in addition to its quaint appearance is overlooked at its entrance by an historic house—the house where, according to tradition, the execution of Charles I. was decided on.

These rows of Yarmouth are unique in England, the plan of this portion of the town resembling not so much a gridiron, as the backbone of a sole slightly twisted. Something akin to the Yarmouth rows will be found in the Tewkesbury courts, up and down which the Chartists alternately fought and fled. But the element of the picturesque so eminently present in Yarmouth is absent from Tewkesbury. Let none be deterred by narrow entries and darksome passages from visiting these curious old-world paths.

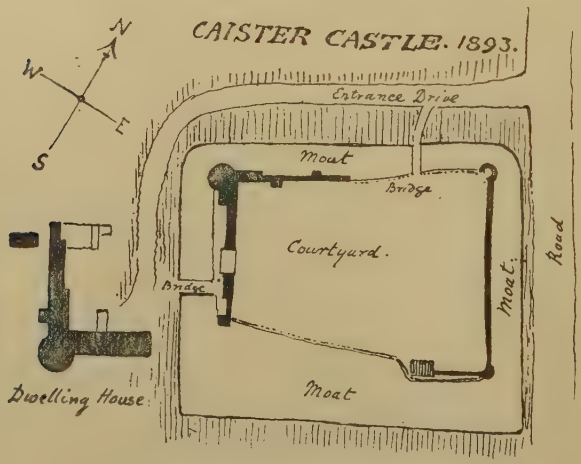



CAISTER.
C.R.B.Barrett 92. May 9

CAISTER CASTLE.

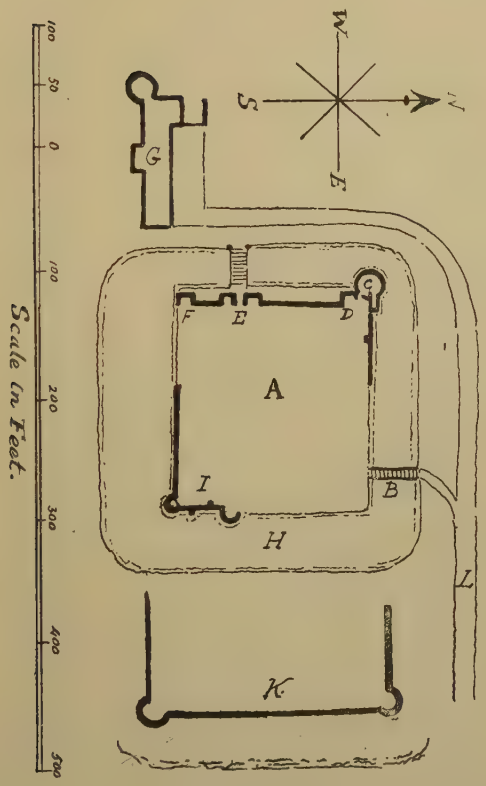
CAISTER CASTLE stands about one mile and a quarter from the little village of Caister, and four miles from the busy and picturesque town of Yarmouth. For many associations, both historical and literary, the grand old fragment merits a visit; and as it is, moreover, one of the oldest buildings of English brickwork now in existence, it need hardly be added that to students of architecture, and to those of antiquarian tastes, Caister Castle, even in its decay, presents much that is fraught with the highest interest. Lands at Caister were purchased by the Fastolfe family from a Sir Oliver Ingham as far back as the year 1316, but it is unknown whether at that time any dwelling-house existed upon the site. We read, however, that during the reign of Henry V. the celebrated Sir John Fastolfe obtained a licence to fortify a dwelling at Caister, his birthplace. Henry V. died in 1422 after a brief reign of nine years, and the Castle at Caister was commenced during the reign of his successor, the build-

ing operations being still in progress as late as 1453. Sir John, in 1443, had obtained a licence from the Crown to keep six ships in his employ, and these he appears to have used to convey building materials by water to Caister, *viâ* Yarmouth. At that date, by means of a creek, there was water communication with the river and sea; the Castle moat being thus supplied. A tradition of doubtful



authenticity pretends that Caister Castle was built as a ransom by John II., Duke d'Alençon, a French prisoner captured by the valiant knight at Verneuil in 1424. In its entirely Caister Castle covered at least five acres of ground, and from a map dated 1842 would seem to have possessed two moats—the inner one containing the present lofty tower and chief gateway, the outer one, the now vanished college.

PLAN OF CAISTER.



A Courtyard.
B Present Bridge.
C Great Tower.
D Supposed Chapel Windows.
E Gateway.
F Small Corner Tower.
G Caister Hall (Barge House).
H Inner Moat.
I Ruins, now destroyed.
K Ruins of College and Walls.
L Avenue.

But this map compared with the modern map shows many marked differences; its orientation being at least 45° too much to the South. For this strange fact, which a comparison of the two plans here given will show, I can, I fancy, supply a reason. It is, however, clear that in later years the form of the moat has been considerably changed; portions have been filled in, and apparently others have been excavated; unless, indeed, the map of 1842 is entirely incorrect while professing to be accurate. The situation of the buildings of the Castle, too, is involved in not a little difficulty. A ground plan published by Grose in the "Antiquities of England and Wales," dated 1776, shows the buildings in a fairly complete state, but it is not now possible to ascertain whether the identification of the various rooms thereon is correct or the reverse. Grose places two drawbridges at the same spots where the present moat can still be crossed; a third one apparently connecting the two courtyards. The hall occupies the greater part of the south-east side of the chief court, the cellars the north-west side; the north-east buildings are unnamed, while the basement of the tower is called the dining-room. All mention of the chapel is wanting. The buildings which faced the north-west and north-east sides of the outer moat were occupied by the college, and the range on the south-west face is unnamed. In Dawson Turner's book, from which the 1842 plan is derived, the chapel is placed in the western angle adjoining the great tower, and the two fragments of windows still to be seen close by the tower doorway are men-

tioned as relics of that chapel. A plate is given showing the vaulting in the recess, even then in a ruinous condition and now destroyed. But the chapel of Caister Castle was consecrated, and would not have had any portion thereof beneath a room devoted to other purposes, as this so-called fragment of the chapel assuredly has. Moreover, too, for the chapel to have been built east and west, it must have projected diagonally across the courtyard; a condition of things highly improbable. Here it is that the faulty orientation of the plan comes in, and one is tempted to hazard a guess that the compass was twisted to suit the theory that the ruined windows belonged to the chapel.

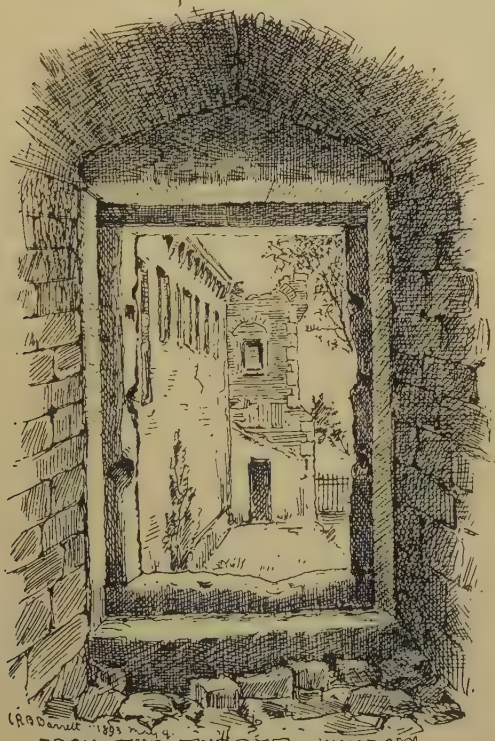
The tower of Caister, its greatest beauty, rises to a height of ninety feet, the turret standing up some six or eight feet higher. Externally the tower is circular, and the turret hexagonal; internally, these forms are reversed. Originally the tower was divided into five stories, and the marks of floor joists, the openings of the windows, and the ruined fireplaces easily show this. When perfect, the turret newel had, it is stated, 122 stone steps; but these were taken away by a parson named David Collyer, shortly after Grose published his plan. Collyer was building a house at Wroxham, and used the stones to make a parapet thereto. In 1751 "an industrious antiquary," one Mr. William Arderon, records that he "wrenched out of the wall of one of the windows in the tower an iron bar which had stood some hundreds of years perpendicular; but it was not in the least magnetical." Antiquaries in those days seem

at times to have failed in due reverence, and to have unblushingly confessed the fact. Within this grand old tower, now a complete shell, was formerly a carving of the arms of Sir John Fastolfe, surrounded by the Garter, and above a window was another quaint carving, of which I give a sketch. This sketch I derived from the annotated copy of Blomefield in the Manuscript Room at the British Museum. It is in many respects a most remarkable carving, and is at the present time, I understand, at Blickling Hall, where it has been built in above a fireplace. The coats of arms on

the carving are those of Fastolfe: Quarterly, or and azure, on a bend gules three cross crosslets argent, on one shield; and in the other the same, impaling Tiptoft, argent, a saltire engrailed gules on a scroll; on the carving is inscribed "me ffaut ffare." Sir John Fastolfe married Millicent Tiptoft or Tibetot, the daughter of Robert, third Lord Tibetot and widow of Sir Stephen Scrope.

Of the turret, as I have mentioned, the stone stairs have now gone, and, indeed, the hand-rail has likewise vanished.

Still it is possible to ascend a short distance, and from one of the windows I was enabled to obtain a sketch of the outer face of the south-west wall. It should be mentioned



FROM THE TURRET WINDOW.

that it is otherwise not possible to view this part of the ruins. Formerly permission was freely granted, but the misconduct of a certain class of visitors caused the privilege to be with-

drawn. It is on this side of the ruin that the remains of the chief gateway are still in existence. The drawbridge has gone, but a causeway over the moat replaces it. The view of the tower and the north-west side of the ruin is most picturesque, whether seen from the little wooden bridge by which we now cross the moat, or whether one is stationed at the extreme western corner, where the tower can be viewed in the foreground, and the long line of ruinous though yet massive wall with its machicolations still fairly perfect, far more so indeed than those upon the south-west side. Of the general range of ruins, the best view is to be obtained from beneath a tree on the edge of the moat upon the south-east side. Thence we see the noble tower, the two long lines of wall; that on the left being pierced with the openings of the windows and the ancient gateway; that on the right with a lofty crow-stepped gable-end surmounted by two ruined chimneys, and with here and there traces of door, window, and fireplace. Of the rest of this once grand old castle there is now but little to see within the moat. The north-east face has yet its loopholed wall and two fragmentary semicircular bastions, but these relics hardly possess much interest, and, indeed, the arrow slits have been for the most part bricked up. Outside the moat, however, and forming part of the present dwelling-house, is an undoubted portion of the ancient Castle. Visitors are not permitted to view it, and hence from an old print I give a sketch of what the building resembled some years ago.

The low round tower, now covered with ivy, is easily to be

THE BARGE HOUSE.—
FROM AN OLD PRINT.

discerned from the road as one approaches Caister. This portion of the building used to be known as the Barge House, traditionally because the worthy knight's pleasure-barge was kept therein beneath the low arch shown in the sketch. Plans tell us that from this arch the water communication with the river started, and without doubt it was to this spot that the six ships brought the building materials when the erection of the Castle was in progress.

I shall here give a short account of the life of Sir John Fastolfe.

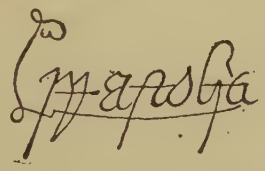
Sir John Fastolfe was born about the year 1378, and was descended from an ancient Norfolk family which had been established at Yarmouth since the days of Edward I. Some of them were bailiffs of the town during that reign. Sir John was the son of John, and grandson of Alexander Fastolfe. He has been stated to have been page to John, Duke of Bedford, but this is not established. He was, however, in the service of Thomas of Lancaster, afterwards Duke of Clarence, the second son of Henry IV., and was with his master in Ireland in 1405-6. He married in Ireland in 1408. Fastolfe served abroad in foreign wars prior to 1413. Henry V. made him custodian of the Castle of Veires in Gascony. After the taking of Harfleur, Fastolfe and Thomas Beaufort, Duke of Exeter, became Governors of that city. Sir John greatly distinguished himself at Agincourt, and also at Rouen, the relief of Harfleur, the taking of Caen, and the siege of Rouen. In 1417 he was appointed Governor of Condé-sur-Noireau, and was

knighted sometime about this period. The next year he seized the Castle of Bec Crespin in Normandy, and became the Governor of the Bastille. In 1422 he was Seneschal of Normandy, being appointed the following year Lieutenant and Regent for Normandy, and Governor of Anjou and Maine. At the battle of Verneuil he took prisoner John II., as has been stated. The prisoner was ransomed three years afterwards, but Fastolfe never received his share of the money. In 1425-6 he was continually in the field, and was rewarded in the latter year by the Garter. The year 1429 was memorable for Fastolfe's chief exploit, when he successfully relieved the starving garrison of Orleans, defeating, by the way, a very superior French force. Through the use Fastolfe made of barrels of herrings in this fight, as a means of defence, the combat is known by the name of the Battle of Herrings. But the success of the English was checked by the victories of Joan of Arc. On June 18th, 1429, the English were defeated at Patay, mainly through the rashness of Talbot. Fastolfe's men bolted, and their leader himself was compelled to retreat after failing to restore the fight. Fastolfe has been accused of cowardice on this account, and it has even been stated that he was degraded from the Order of the Garter. The charge is unfounded. Probably he demanded some sort of court of inquiry into his conduct and was acquitted. It is upon this that Shakespeare has founded the imaginary Falstaff. There is no reason to doubt that the memory of Fastolfe was meant to be ridiculed in the character of Fal-

staff, so many points of resemblance occurring to warrant the conclusion. The mythical exploits of Falstaff are well known, and need not be repeated. It should, however, be mentioned that the scholars—or, as they are there called, "demies"—at Magdalen College, Oxford, sustained by Fastolfe's foundation, used to be known as "Fastolfe's buckram men."

In 1430 Fastolfe was made Lieutenant of Caen, and was in almost constant employment abroad for years, making only fleeting visits to England. He was appointed English ambassador to the Council of Basle, amongst other posts, but did not serve. In 1434 he assisted in negociating the Peace of Arras. The following year finds him one of the executors of the Duke of Bedford. Fastolfe quitted military life in 1440, when he returned to England. Ten years later we find him one of those threatened by Jack Cade during the rebellion, and he retired to the Tower of London for safety. Fastolfe was immensely wealthy. He owned houses in Norwich, London, Yarmouth, and had built Caister Castle. Through his wife he possessed estates in Wilts, in addition to his own in Norfolk and Suffolk. The lengthy and most interesting inventory of his goods, to be met with in the Paston Letters, gives some notion of his, for that time, marvellous wealth. In silver plate, exclusive of certain gold vessels, he left behind him at Caister Castle no less than 13,400 ounces. His other dwellings were also well stored. Coin to the amount of £2,643 10*s*. was also among his effects at St. Bennet's Abbey. Hangings innumer-

able for the twenty-seven principal chambers occur in the lengthy lists—chapel fittings, plate and ornaments, stores of clothing, arms, armour, tapestry, beds, bedding, and pillows, even for the servants, succeed one another in this most interesting document, of which a certified copy has luckily been preserved.



Signature of Sir John Fastolfe, K.G.

Sir John Fastolfe, K.G., died childless in 1459, leaving his huge possessions to form a bone of contention among various conflicting parties, in the main from the fact that he left three copies of a will dated two days before his death, Nov. 3rd. The tale of the intrigues and unseemly squabbles which took place about Caister is too long and too intricate to set down here. The curious will find it in the Paston Letters. To John Paston, however, Caister seems to have been bequeathed, but he was not left long unmolested. The powerful Duke of Norfolk claimed the estate, and, being denied possession, collected 3,000 men and laid siege to the castle in due form. The defenders numbered twenty-eight, and this plucky little band managed to hold the place for a few days, when they surrended, having lost one of their number. The besiegers lost two men killed, and the Pastons were subsequently tried for the murder of these. How the Paston

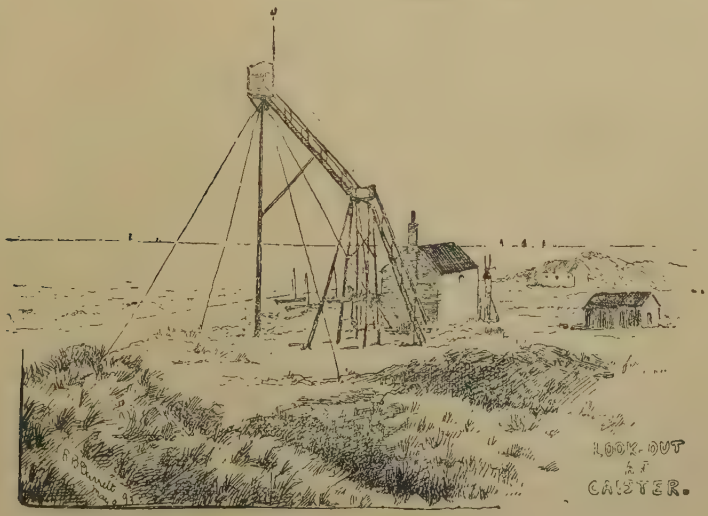
family failed to prosper need not here be told, but money troubles at length caused the sale of Caister Castle, in 1599, to one of their creditors, by name Crowe. From that date the Castle has been gradually falling into decay, a condition of things aided by the ravages of fire, and also by the acquisitive hand of man.

It should be mentioned that the college which Fastolfe desired to build, but which he did not live to complete, was duly erected by Paston. It seems that Sir John had considerable difficulty in obtaining a licence to erect this college,

for seven monks or priests and seven poor men, from the king. The application hung fire for long, and finally an extreme price was demanded for the licence. The Paston family presented to this college, which was dedicated to St. Margaret, until by agreement it was transferred to Magdalen College, Oxford, in 1474.

Not far from Caister Castle, on the top of the hill on the road to Caister, stand the scanty remains of the Church of St. Edmund. As ruins they are not interesting; the overhanging ivy all but conceals all trace of masonry. It is, however, well to go back to the shore or

station by this road, as from the brow of the hill the view of distant Yarmouth is very beautiful; indeed, the best idea of the magnitude of St. Nicholas' Church, Yarmouth, can be obtained from west Caister. The present parish Church of Caister (Holy Trinity) is not uninteresting, though very plain, as it possesses some fine incised stone slabs decorated with armorial bearings; notably those of Lawrence Womack, Clerk, 1721, Martha and John Gibson, Eliza Blenner Haysset and Jeffery Cobb. Within the altar rails is a curious inscription on a brass to Thomasin Randall, giving dates not of birth and death, but of baptism and funeral. The piscina and three sedilia are good, and I regret that I have been unable to make them



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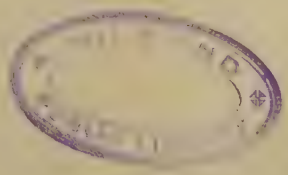
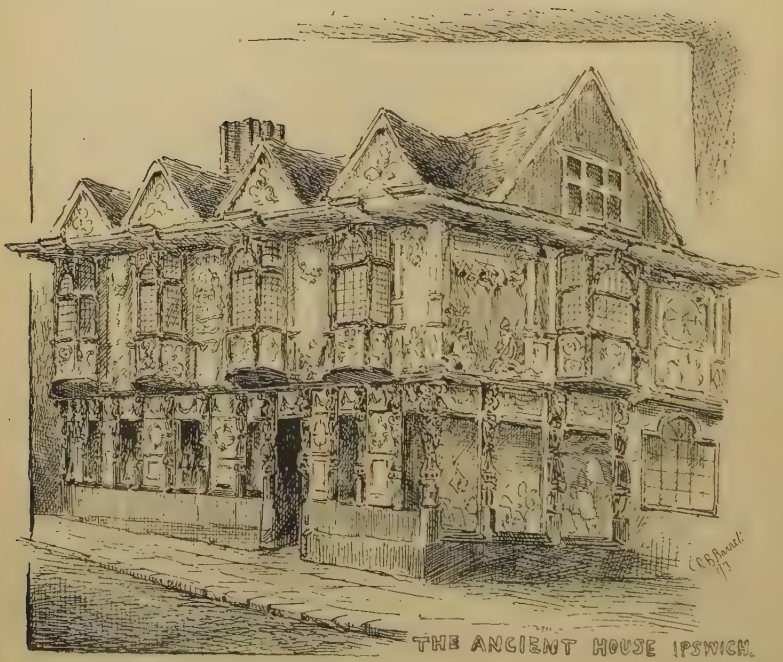
the subject of a sketch. In the south porch there is a small niche; and the tower, though not large, is very solid. In the churchyard lies the body of Sarah Martin (1791-1843), the teacher and friendly visitor of the wretched prisoners in the Tolhouse at Yarmouth. From Holy Trinity Church it is but a few minutes' walk to the sea, where amid the sand-hills stands the lofty lifeboat "look-out," and where on the shore close beyond, the lifeboats and salvage boats lie ever ready for service. At the foot of the mast on which the crow's-nest is perched is a hut, on the seaward face of which is a tiny balcony, and at one corner an alarm bell. On a stormy night this "look-out" would hardly be a comfortable resting-place; but on a fair and calm day the sea-view thence is wonderfully fine.





THE ANCIENT HOUSE IPSWICH.

ROUND IPSWICH.

IPSWICH.

WHETHER Ipswich at its best could ever have boasted of such picturesque streets and buildings as Shrewsbury and Chester, or even Tewkesbury and Evesham, is, perhaps, open to question. Record remains of numberless buildings, public and private, which have been ruthlessly destroyed; but, despite the havoc of careless or greedy townsfolk, there is still much, very much, to reward the seeker after antiquity. In these few pages I purpose only to describe the most prominent antiquities now actually visible, leaving the reader to refer at his leisure to standard works for further information.

Upon entering a town I naturally take my way first to the market-place, as, by experience, I have found that in its immediately vicinity there are more often than not specimens of ancient architecture. In Ipswich, however, one may look long and fruitlessly for things of interest in the market-place. The grand old Market Cross was demolished in 1812, after an existence of just over three hundred years. Engravings tell us what it was like, and a few relics of it are preserved in the Ipswich Museum; notably the grotesquely carved heads which formerly decorated each truss above the eight supporting

pillars. Gone, too, are the quaint Town Hall and the curious shambles. But the borough has within its limits one house, which, though not of very great age, is yet the most perfect specimen of its kind to be found in England. I allude to what is known as the Ancient House, or "Sparrowe's House." This house, now occupied by a stationer, has an exterior beautifully decorated with parge-work, as well as with carved oak. Its date is 1567. Four projecting windows of a fine type face the street, and one of a similar form looks out on to a narrow lane. The parge-work decoration of the four front windows represents the four continents, Europe, Asia, Africa, and America. Of the five flat surfaces on the first floor, four are decorated with foliage, birds, and conventional designs, while the centre one bears on a large scale the royal arms (*temp.* Charles II.) with C. R. Wide projecting eaves overhang all these windows, and form the main roof above four small gables, each decorated with quaint parge-work figure subjects. The ground floor, now used as the shop, has most ornate pillars, brackets, and panels. An inspection of the lane side of the house shows us a curious parge-work group of two figures (one evidently a shepherd), with sheep, the shepherd standing, while his companion rests beneath a tree. The overhanging window bears a quaint device of Atlas supporting the world, a conceit which fits in well with the panels on the front of the house. Beyond this window is a curious circular window, beneath which is a rather uncommon scallop-shaped ornament. At regular intervals all round the outside of this first-floor wall shallow pilasters run from the plate beam to beneath the eaves.

The interior of this fine old mansion is not less interesting than its exterior, and one room is specially worthy of careful study. Here we have fine panels, good beams well carved, and a nobly decorated fireplace.

I have taken the Ancient House first as being the most important antiquity in Ipswich, but there is more sentiment attaching to the fragment known as Wolsey's Gate. Few there are who can pass this spot without giving a thought to the great Cardinal's religious educational scheme, of which this weather-beaten gateway is now the sole tangible relic left. Having determined to enrich his native place by founding a "College of Secular Canons," he began to build in 1528, two years only before his fall and death; and

with such rapidity did the work proceed, that within three months of the date of laying the foundation stone, a portion of the College was ready for occupation. An opening ceremony took place, which was not attended by the Cardinal, on the feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Two months later the ornaments of the chapel were seized, and the contents of the charitable donation boxes were sequestrated. The date of the destruction of the building is unknown; the College itself was bestowed upon one Thomas Anerde, stated to have been the keeper of the Cardinal's wardrobe. Suffice it to say that beyond the elegant little brick archway, now ivy-clad, and on which the mouldering coat-armour of Wolsey's rapacious master may still be discerned, nothing remains of this nobly-planned and partly-effected foundation.

Another interesting gateway is also in existence in Ipswich, known as Pykenham's Gate, or the Archdeacon's. It stands not far from the spot where the now vanished North Gate of the town once stood, and formed part of the palace of William Pykenham, Archdeacon of Suffolk in 1471. The gateway seen from the street is built of fine red brick, and in a wall near there is a small doorway, which evidently belongs to another part of the building. The inner part of the gateway is more picturesque than the exterior, being half timbered, and possessing also some few remaining carvings in the spandrels of the inner wooden arch. Upon one side on a scutcheon is blazoned a fish (possibly a pike) swimming the wrong way, and surmounting an animal (possibly a squirrel) also looking in the wrong direction. The other spandrel has on its scutcheon a mullet. Neither of these bears the arms of

Pykenham, which were azure, a lion rampant or. The walls and gates of Ipswich have shared the fate of walls and gates

generally throughout the country; few places comparatively having even traces of their ancient fortifications to show in these days. Still, we must be thankful for Colchester and Chester, the portions of Shrewsbury, and the picturesque fragments at Conway and Oxford, to show us what the

walled towns of our forefathers to a certain extent resembled. A feature in Ipswich, however, is the prevalence of corner posts, some of which are carved in a remarkably artistic and ornate manner. Here, however, it is sad to reflect that the most beautiful specimens have vanished. One which I have sketched stands at the corner of Oak Lane, and has each of its sides ornamented in a different manner. One side bears a blacksmith toiling at his forge, the other a half bust. The design of this corner-post, irregular though it be, is worthy of careful scrutiny, and its execution is remarkable. Another corner-post stands at the turning out of Silent Street. This example, which, by the way, bears a good merchant's mark on a small scutcheon, appears to me to be of ecclesiastical origin; and, as I take it, the building formerly pertained to some religious house. A third type will be found at the "Half Moon" in Lower Brook Street, where the old-time story of the fox and the geese is boldly set forth. On one face the three silly

geese are coming to consult the fox; on the other, the fate of one of them is shewn; the figure of the fox (now rather mutilated) occupying the outer angle of the post. This fable has often been used in ecclesiastical buildings, and examples are to be found where it occurs on Misereres and Poppy-Heads. In Upper Brook Street will be seen a finely-carved beam, which has on its face the following designs running from left to right. A shield with a reversed chevron, a rose and its trailing foliage, a lion, a shield with a merchant's mark, a lion, a crown, a griffin, a shield

with the initial R, a griffin, a rose and leaves, a griffin and a final shield. There are points about the execution of this beam which raise it far above the ordinary run of such

decorations. It is in this part of the town that the most quaint bits of old domestic work are to be seen, and the most easy and satisfactory way is to ask for St. Clement's. Here we have the Neptune Inn, which is ancient-looking without and quaint within. Its date appears to be 1639. The house is certainly well worthy of preservation, though it does not belong to the list of old Ipswich inns,* seeing that without doubt it was originally erected as a private residence.

* In Tavern Street stands the "Great White Horse," immortalized by Pickwick. The exterior has been unfortunately modernized.

Not very far from the Neptune Inn is a curious house, close to which is an ancient gateway, through the open door of which the masts of the vessels at the quay appear above the sheds. The carving on this house is very good. Handsome beams run along the entire length and up the edges, terminating at the cornice in excellently executed brackets. The windows which project on the first floor have also some handsome carving on them.

One more ancient house remains to be mentioned, it is situated in Fore Street, and possesses three fine gables, each surmounting a noble projecting window, similar in design to those in the Ancient House, but quite plain in detail. The walls of this house are simply panelled in plaster, without the

least attempt at parge-work decoration. Still, the house is a good specimen of its date and type. Scattered about in

the streets, at odd corners, down narrow passages, in by-lanes, will be found many another architectural bit worth inspection, or fit to occupy a page in the sketch-book; but to enumerate all here would be impossible. Perhaps one of the most remarkable things in Ipswich is the poverty of its ecclesiastical architecture: the churches simply need no comment, save that there are brasses in these parts, and brasses well worth seeing. Here and there an Ipswich church tower by judicious "faking" can be made to form a picturesque object in a more than usually untruthful sketch. But to a student of church architecture Ipswich must be pronounced barren soil.

It now remains to say a few words about Christchurch Park, a noble mansion almost in the town itself, but to view which it is needful to obtain special leave. Christchurch Park has been called, "one of the noblest Elizabethan domestic mansions in England." This is a very strong statement; it is undoubtedly a fine old place, but it cannot claim, nor could it ever claim, to take very high rank. The mansion stands in a beautifully wooded park, and appears picturesque from every point of view; thanks, perhaps, to the varied forms of its ornate gables in front and to the irregularity in the design of the back of the house. It was built in 1549 by Sir Edmund Withipoll. Above the hall porch a Latin inscription bearing this date runs as follows: "Frugalitatem sic serves ut dissipationem non incurras." A granddaughter of Sir Edmund Withipoll married Viscount Hereford, but died childless. The estate went to the widower, who, marrying again, left an heiress. The daughter of this heiress married the son of Lord Hereford. After her death, Christchurch was sold to a Mr.

Claude Fonnereau, a gentleman whose family were of Huguenot descent. Christchurch Park belongs still to a member of the same family. The Great Hall is a very fine one, with a large wide fireplace. Its walls are panelled, and there is also a gallery. The staircase is good, though nothing extraordinary. Other rooms in the house are well worth a visit, and one of them lays a very doubtful claim to having been on one occasion occupied by Queen Elizabeth. Her visits to Ipswich are known, but the mere presence of her initials above the door and the date 1565 are not sufficient to establish the fact of the stay at Christchurch. In the grounds, an old-fashioned bowling green still exists.

WOODBRIDGE AND MARTLESHAM.

THE pleasant little town of Woodbridge is worth visiting for many reasons. Here and there in its streets are old-world relics of domestic architecture; its church, though much restored, is exceptionally fine; and the surrounding scenery, especially in the direction of Martlesham, is picturesque. Woodbridge lies on the banks of the River Deben, which widens presently into an estuary and falls into the sea near Bawdsey Ferry. Assuming that we reach Woodbridge by rail, and make our way up into the town from the station, we cannot but feel that the place is more ancient than it looks, or rather that there ought to be many more relics of antiquity

in its streets than present themselves. The road leads up the hill till the market-place is reached, where the quaint Flemish-looking Shire Hall, with its decorated gable, dominates the surrounding gabled houses. This Shire Hall was restored (not very judiciously) about eight or nine years ago. We should be grateful that it was not entirely demolished.

Facing the Shire Hall stands the well-known Bull Inn, in the stables belonging to which hostelry is a stone to the

memory of one George Carlow there buried. Carlow died in 1738, and left by his will an annual sum of twenty shillings to be distributed to the poor of Woodbridge in the form of bread. Descending the hill by New Street, a curious structure overhanging the road and attached to one gable of

an ancient inn known as "The Bell" soon comes in sight. It is the town scales, which were worked from the overhanging

scaffold, when required, by means of sundry chains, pulleys, and ropes. I am not aware that any other example of this primitive kind of weigh-bridge is in existence in so perfect a state. Long may it be preserved. The old Bell Inn itself is a tumble-down timber-built structure, with many a beam to support its overhanging first floor, and with not a few traces of carving beneath its moulded brackets. Apparently one of the doors is no longer used, as the steps by which it was approached have now vanished, the door itself remaining aloft in the wall.

From "The Bell" those of literary tastes may make a pilgrimage to Little Grange, once the home of the poet and translator Edward Fitzgerald. Born in 1809 at Bredfield House, near Woodbridge, Edward Fitzgerald was the third son of John Purcell, who for family reasons assumed the name of Fitzgerald in 1818. Fitzgerald was educated at Bury St. Edmunds, and afterwards went to Trinity College, Cambridge. The greater part of his youth was spent at Bredfield, but he subsequently lived at Wherstead Lodge, near Ipswich, from 1825 to 1835, in which year the family took up their residence at Boulge Hall, near his place of birth. In 1853 he moved to Farlingay Hall, near Woodbridge. Seven or eight years later he lived on the Market Hill, Woodbridge, in lodgings, and remained there for some thirteen years, when he removed to Little Grange. The death of Fitzgerald took place suddenly in 1883 while he was visiting in Norfolk. He is buried at Boulge. His friends were mostly literary men, among whom may be numbered James Spedding, William Bodham Donne, the examiner of plays, Carlyle, Thackeray, and the three Tennysons. Fitzgerald married the daughter of Bernard

Barton,* the Quaker poet (chiefly remembered as the friend of Charles Lamb), who for many years had resided at Woodbridge, first as a coal merchant and afterwards as a clerk in the bank of Messrs. Alexander. Little Grange, the home of Fitzgerald, is a pleasant house, which appears to be for the most part quite modern. It stands close to the road, and possesses in its large garden a small ornamental terrace wall.

Of a naturally reserved disposition, Fitzgerald shunned the company of strangers. By his intimate friends he was deeply beloved; and his letters (he was an admirable letter-writer) show him in a most amiable light. To the fisher-folk and his poorer neighbours he was a genuine friend in time of trouble.

Fitzgerald's chief work, his matchless translation of the Persian poet Omar Khayyám, on its first appearance in 1859, was received with absolute indifference. It was not until 1867 that a second edition was sent to press, by which time D. G. Rossetti, Mr. Swinburne, and others had discovered its extraordinary merits. In the eyes of critics the first edition will be held the most valuable, for the many corrections which Fitzgerald introduced in later editions were seldom improvements. The translations from Æschylus and Calderon are of high interest, but have not the magic of the Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám.

Returning now to the Shire Hall, at the farther side of

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* Honourable mention should be made of another Woodbridge worthy, Robert Loder, bookseller and antiquary, who published, in 1798, a valuable History of Framlingham. His literary tastes are inherited by his grandson, the Woodbridge bookseller of to-day.

which are two roads, and taking that on the right hand, we reach, a few yards beyond the Market Hill, a most interesting relic of antiquity in the shape of four highly-ornate and beautifully-carved wooden arches. This building is now used as a saw-mill, and has unfortunately suffered much mutilation; still, though the arches are boarded up nearly to the top, their most ornate portions are visible, as my sketch shows. The end bracket is massive, and is supported by a wooden pillar, the cap of which is carved, displaying an

FRAGMENT OF CARVING AT WOODBRIDGE.

angel bearing a scroll. From examination, I should incline to the belief that the wood of the arches (evidently windows in former days) is not oak, but chestnut. Should it be possible to see the interior of this building as it was on the occasion of my visit, other remains of brackets and moulded beams will be easily discerned.

The other road previously mentioned leads to the church, Seckford Hospital, and Martlesham. At the corner, known as "King's Head Corner" (from the sign of an alehouse there), is a very ancient house, not a little out of the perpendicular in places, and showing many a quaint beam upon its outer face. It has, moreover, at least two windows of considerable interest. One of these, which looks on to the ground floor, resembles the wooden porch windows sometimes still to be found. It has massive wooden bars,

and is unglazed. The other window projects from the upper story, and has beneath its coved end five ancient heads

carved in oak, of which the two outer ones are larger in size than the three inner ones. I have, however, a theory that these carvings are not in their original position. Elsewhere in the town may be seen a few eighteenth-century door heads, mostly made, it would appear, after one pattern. There is also a house designated "Antique House," which has a beam dated 1650, but I question whether the title is borne out by the general appearance of this structure.

We now come to the Seckford Dispensary, a modern building, and then turn off to the left to make our way to

the fine old church of St. Mary the Virgin, the parish church of Woodbridge. Despite the delicate attentions of William Dowsing, the church wrecker, and the sundry reparations and restorations which it has undergone, this church is still in many ways remarkable. The main style of its architecture is perpendicular, and it comprises nave, aisles, north porch, chancel, and north chapel (the Seckford Chapel). The noble tower dates from the reign of Edward III., and is built of flint dressed with freestone, the upper portion being decorated with flint and stone devices, and terminating in pinnacles. The interior of the church, however, is more full of interest than its exterior, though the carving of St. Michael at the north porch merits attention on entrance. First the font claims attention, having carved upon its panels the seven sacraments. These are terribly mutilated, but I was glad to hear that the font is not to be restored. The tower arch is a fine one, and the same remark applies to the pillars and arches of the nave. The clerestory windows, fourteen in number on each side, are rather curious, but have a good effect. Across the chancel are the remains of the lower portion of the ancient screen, which was discovered, I believe, in 1874, and replaced in its former position. This screen was first erected in the church about the middle of the fifteenth century, being the gift of John Albrede. Paintings of saints ornament most of the panels of the screen, which are twenty-four in number. Of these only four are blank.

Of course the screen at Woodbridge cannot be compared with the marvellous screen at Southwold; still, as a specimen it is well worthy of attention, and it is carefully preserved. Within the chancel stands an altar tomb, said to be that of

Thomas Seckford, the great benefactor of Woodbridge. This, if it be genuine, once stood in the Seckford Chapel, its position being now occupied by the great organ. Somehow the design of this tomb does not inspire confidence, and I cannot help thinking that during its restoration it must have suffered much. Upon and beneath the tomb are two helmets and various pieces of armour, stated to have belonged to Seckford; the relics of a helmet crest are also still to be seen. During the restoration the three piscinæ now disclosed were discovered, and also the sedilia on the south side of the chancel. Monumental brasses no doubt existed in great numbers at one time, to judge from the stripped matrices to be seen in the aisles. A few are there still, but not of early date. One good tomb with five kneeling effigies stands at the east end of the south aisle; it is that of Jeffry Pitman, Sheriff of Suffolk, who died in 1627. At the entrance of the chancel are three incised slabs with arms, two belonging to the family of Gillet *alias* Candler, the third to one Thomas Knight. There is also a quaint rhyming inscription to a child named Grome dated 1617. Thomas Seckford, the founder to whom the town of Woodbridge owes so much, was one of the Masters of the Court of Request, and Surveyor of the Court of Wards and Liveries. He was the second son of Thomas Seckford and Margaret Wingfield. He married Elizabeth, the daughter of Thomas Harlow and widow of Sir Martin Bows, but died without issue in 1587-88, aged seventy-two. Since the days of Edward II. the Seckfords had been seated at Bealings Magna, in Suffolk, where they possessed an estate; but the family is now extinct. Mrs. Dorothy Seckford, the widow of the last male Seckford, also a benefactor of Woodbridge, died in 1673.

The arms of the Seckford family, which rightly are to be seen in various places in Woodbridge, are Ermine; on a fess, gules, three escallops, or. The crest is, a talbot, passant, ermine.

Not far along the road beyond the church we come to a long range of modern buildings, designed in what is meant for the Elizabcthan style. They stand removed from the road and high on a hill, the intervening space being laid out in gardens. The centre of the range of buildings is the chapel, the remainder being almshouses. Fronting the road there is a long terrace-walk, and separating the grounds from the road itself are iron railings and gates, which locally are called "noble." This is, however, a point upon which opinions may differ. The whole range might have been an architectural success, but somehow is not. Its situation is most excellent, and the buildings appear comfortable and well adapted to the purpose; still, one cannot but regard these new almshouses as an opportunity lost. Close by the second gate of the almshouses, and a little retired from the road, may be seen, half shrouded by trees, a most picturesque old thatched house, which bears every appearance of antiquity, and which in summer-tide must indeed be pleasant.

Continuing along the road towards Martlesham, the windings of the Deben are visible on the left hand, with a picturesquely-wooded point jutting out into the stream. Here and there the sail of a barge can be discerned, and the river is navigable above Woodbridge as far as Melton. Far away in the distance the river winds till its course is lost in the haze. Beyond, on the same side of the road, half concealed by trees, the tower of the little church of Martle-

sham can be seen; and presently—passing beneath the railway arch and over the brook, by name Fyn—we reach the village itself, which, if famous for nothing else, has been the origin of a proverbial saying.

MARTLESHAM, be it known, possesses an old inn, of which the sign is a red lion—a terrible monster, especially when viewed full-face. This inn sign, though known for generations to have been in its present position originally formed the figure-head of some vessel, and from its appearance one would incline to attribute to it a Dutch origin. The initial shows the detail of the carving, while the

THE RED LION
MARTLESHAM.

sketch of this old-world inn shows its position on the house. The upper window is by no means bad, small though it be; in the lower room there is a curious ceiling, divided into quarters by beams, each panel being studded with four raised *fleurs-de-lis* and a central rose set quincunx fashion. From the glowing colour in which the old figure-head sign is ever painted has arisen the saying, "As red as Martlesham lion." The church of Martlesham, which lies at some little distance from the village, is small, and is not remarkable for any architectural features. It should be mentioned that the finest view of Woodbridge Church will be obtained on the road back from Martlesham.

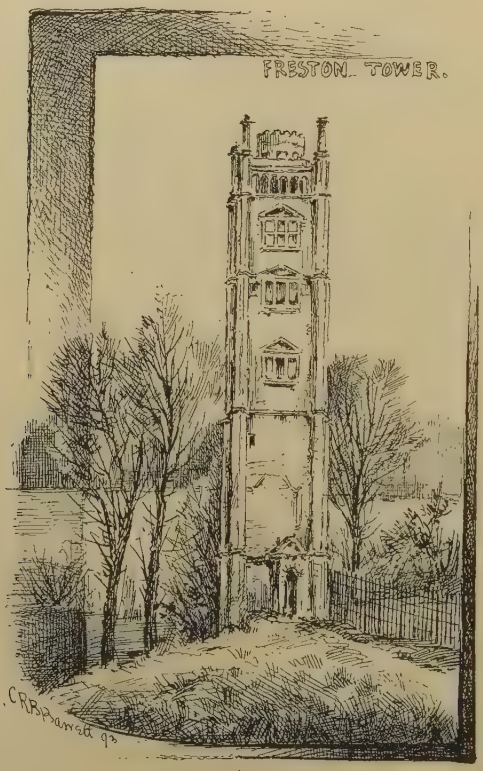
IPSWICH TO HARWICH AND FELIXSTOWE.

The journey by water from Ipswich to Harwich is singularly enjoyable, but for those who prefer to see objects more distinctly than from the deck of a passing steamer, the better plan is to walk as far as Chelmondiston, where at Pin Mill they can take to the water. To proceed, however, by road, we leave Ipswich, passing the railway-station on the right, and keeping as close as possible to the banks of the Orwell. At first the road is hardly interesting, but soon we get a view in the distance of Freston Tower, that curious "gazebo" which crowns the woody height above the entrance to the park gates of Woolverstone Hall, the seat of the Berners family. The Tower lies some distance from the road, but the path to it is easily found. It stands on the very edge of a cliff over-

looking the river, and at first sight one imagines that it must once have formed a portion of some large manor house.

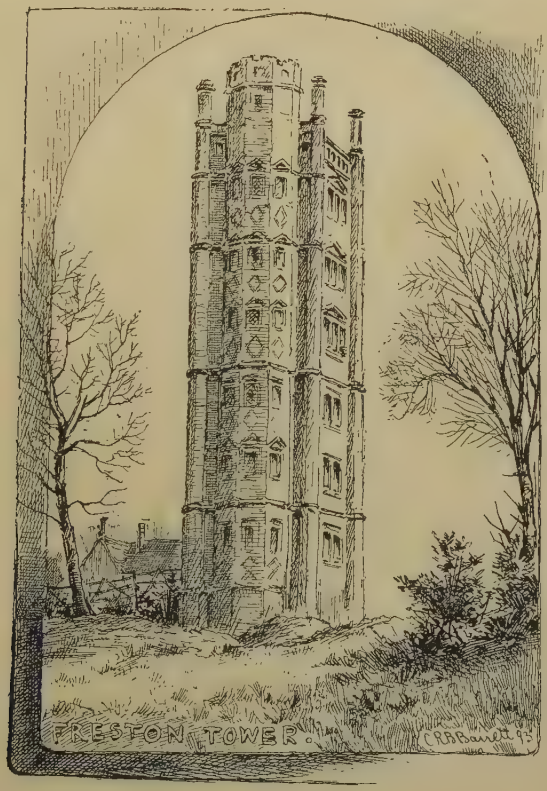
Upon closer inspection, however, it is clearly to be seen that Freston Tower was built detached from all other structures, and that in its intention it was merely a summer-house. Still, even as a summer-house or "gazebo," it is very remarkable. Six stories in height, pierced, especially on the river face, with many a window, and with a curious external turret stair communicating in half-newel fashion with the floor of each room, the building is eminently peculiar. The brickwork is most excellent, and neither windows, turrets, pinnacles, nor arcading have been suffered to fall into decay. How different the case of Freston Tower from many of the beautiful relics one comes across: for instance, Leigh Priory in the neighbouring county of Essex. I give here two sketches of the Tower, one which shows the land face, and which also contains the tiny porch and door. Here it will be observed that for half the distance up the tower windows are lacking. The

open arched parapet has at each corner blunt-headed pinnacles which form the ends of the polygonal buttresses. The windows slightly vary, and some have been partly



closed. Between the trees which grow out from the hill side the Orwell can be seen in winter, though in summer the foliage is too thick, and it becomes needful to scale the Tower to enjoy a view—but that view is worth the climb.

To my mind, however, the most picturesque view of Freston is taken from the river side of the Tower, where the many-windowed staircase, with its diamond-patterned wall



in vitrified brick, stands out boldly against the sky. To sketch this view it is needful to descend the hill somewhat and then to look upwards. Freston Tower has no history; it takes

its name from a family of Freston, one member of which, Philip de Freston, is known to have been a free burgess of Ipswich in the reign of Henry III. The estate is supposed to have remained in the Freston family till the reign of Henry VIII., when it passed into the possession of the Latymers. Now, as late as the reign of Henry VII. there is no mention of the Tower. The Latymers kept the estate until 1690, and the first-known allusion to Freston is in some MS. collections for a history of Suffolk, where this passage occurs, "Here is part of a house lately built, not farre from the channel, commonly known by the name of Freston Tower." There is a tradition that the Tower itself was designed by a William Latymer, who was a near relative of the celebrated bishop and martyr. Woolverstone Park, which surrounds Woolverstone Hall, and also contains the Parish Church, dedicated to St. Michael, is very beautiful, and, permission having been obtained to traverse it, forms a most pleasant variation to the walk.

Woolverstone Hall was built towards the end of the last century; it is large, but not architecturally beautiful. Upon the top of the hill at some distance from the house is an obelisk, erected in 1793 as a memorial to a former owner of the estate, William Berners, Esq. This obelisk is upwards of ninety feet in height, and is topped by a rayed globe. The church of St. Michael is small, and has been restored comparatively recently.

The next village reached by road is Chelmondiston, otherwise known as Pin Mill. Here the church, originally ancient, has been practically rendered a new building by restoration in 1868, and the rebuilding of the chancel, side chapel and vestry two years ago. From

Chelmondiston village the road turns down to the river sharply on the right, and, on the "hard," a ferry boat may be obtained to take passengers off to the Harwich steamer. This "hard" is a most picturesque spot, and, at low tide, its narrow post-marked course-way stretches far out into the channel. On the river bank stands a quaint old inn, most pleasantly situated, with its windows overhanging the stream. It bears the quaint sign of the "Butt and

Oyster"—a sign which I have not met with elsewhere. The scene here is very beautiful when the tide is high. Close to the inn trees grow down to the water's edge. The river, here very broad, stretches away in the direction of Harwich, a wooded point on the opposite side of the river closing in the horizon. In the foreground the posts of the "hard" stand up from the stream; here and there a boat

rides at its moorings; while in the middle distance a red-sailed barge goes on its way.

Pin Mill or Chelmondiston in the old times was a noted place for smuggling, and many a contraband cargo has been "run" to this once secluded spot. Upon the other side of the river stands Orwell Park, now the home of Captain Pretyman. The house itself is not ancient, but stands in a most pleasant situation, commanding a grand view of the beautiful Orwell. Naval heroes of old times not unnaturally had an affection for this district—a district essentially maritime. The celebrated Admiral Vernon, of Portobello fame, resided at Orwell Park; while Broke Hall hard by belonged to the Broke family (of *Chesapeake* and *Shannon* renown) for centuries. The well-known story of the naval duel between Broke on the *Shannon* and the American frigate *Chesapeake* off Boston Lighthouse (U.S.) in 1813 need not here be told, but the honours bestowed on the victor may be enumerated. From the underwriters of Halifax, Broke received a valuable piece of plate; a similar compliment being paid to him by the gentlemen of Suffolk. The Free and Easy Club of Ipswich presented him with a handsome cup duly inscribed; while the Corporation, Broke being a freeman by birth, duly forwarded a vote of thanks. The Court of Common Council in London voted him their thanks, and a sword of honour; and lastly, he received a baronetcy.

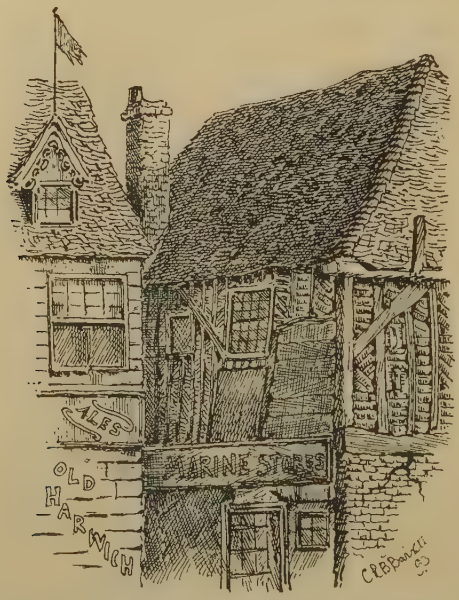
Not far from Broke Hall a creek runs up, called Levington Creek, from the village of Levington. The church here, dedicated to St. Peter, is an old late decorative brick building, small in size, and not of great interest. Probably in ancient times, however, there was more to see within it, as Dowsing mentions in his Diary paying the edifice a visit, where he

destroyed three inscriptions in brass, broke down ten superstitious images, and ordered the altar steps to be levelled in ten days. Levington Creek, like Pin Mill, was a great smuggling haunt.

And now we are rapidly approaching Harwich, passing the guardship *Hotspur* and its tender, the various and sometimes outlandishly rigged vessels either at anchor in the harbour or moving in and out, and the numerous fleet of fishing vessels or shrimp boats which congregate there. Despite the fact that Harwich is in itself the reverse of a picturesque town, yet the presence of the shipping in its wide harbour somehow atones for its lack of beauty. Landing at the pier, we find ourselves in Essex, and in the ancient maritime borough. Harwich was incorporated by Edward II. in 1318, but now includes within its limits Dovercourt, once far famed for its miraculous rood.

The borough stands on a narrow spit of land lying between the estuaries of the Stour and the Orwell. Formerly the town was enclosed by a wall pierced by four large gates, known as St. Helen's-port, St. Austin's-gate, Castle-gate, and Barton's or Water-gate; there were also three smaller gates, called Tilney's, Burham's, and Savers or Salve-gate. There was also a castle, and near one of the gates (St. Austin's) stood a large mansion, one of the homes of the dukes of Norfolk. The church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, was originally founded in the thirteenth century by Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, but the ancient structure was demolished in 1821, and replaced by a new and by no means beautiful white-brick sham Gothic edifice. That Harwich must have been a singularly picturesque town in old days goes without saying, but, alas! nearly every relic of antiquity

in its narrow winding streets has been carted away. Two houses alone externally show any evidences of antiquity; one of these, now a marine store, is close by the Pier Hotel, and of it I give a small sketch. It is formed of very rough



timber work, the interstices being irregularly filled in with weather-beaten red brick, here and there patched with planks, and with its sides not a little out of the perpendicular. Another old triple-gabled house stands in Church Street, the front of which bears irregular and rudely-shaped plaster panels, a small one beneath the central window giving its date 1671. The plaster on the gables is now in a sad state of decay, and the whole building looks as if its days were numbered.

But in this same street, at the "Three Cups Hotel," there is something well worth seeing, and of which the proprietors

OLD HARWICH, IN CHURCH STREET.

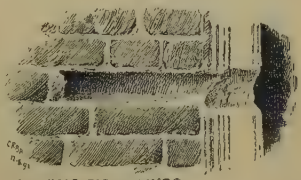
are justly proud. It appears that against the wall of the courtyard (a space of about twelve yards by nine) some years since a clematis was planted. The creeper grew and thrived to such an extent that it soon surrounded all four walls; and not only this, but is festooned in every direction to a central support, thus converting the courtyard into a beautiful leafy tent. The stems have gripped the waterspout from the roof in a python-like grasp in one place, and have twisted it into a form almost unrecognizable. The "Three Cups" itself is an old house, as is witnessed by the heavily and handsomely moulded oak beams in at least one room on the ground floor. These beams have, I regret to say, been painted white; but this disfiguring coat might easily be removed, and it would be gratifying to hear that such a course had been

pursued. A walk along the sea towards the break-water is pleasant, though the melancholy sound of the bell buoy in the distance is hardly in keeping with one's idea of a holiday.

Dovercourt, now a modern watering-place, lays claim to good bathing. From an antiquarian point of view, however, it contains nothing but its ancient brick and rubble church. This church, dedicated to All Saints, and stated to have been the mother church of Harwich, originally dates from the twelfth century; but beyond a curious oak poor's-box dated 1569 contains little of interest. From Harwich a very pleasant excursion can be made by rail to Manningtree, near which, close to the station, though in the adjoining parish of Lawford, stands a fine old house. Lawford Church, dedicated to St. Mary, is an interesting old building, containing some carving worth notice and a few tombs. In Manningtree itself there is little now to interest anybody, the church or chapel, believed to be dedicated to St. Michael, not dating back in its oldest past beyond the year 1616. It contains, however, two monuments, which, though erected years after the death of the persons whose memory they were supposed to perpetuate, still are not without interest. One is to Thomas Osmond, the martyr, who suffered in 1515, the other to the Essex worthy, Thomas Tusser, of "husbandry" renown. But from Manningtree station a short and most delightful field-path leads to Dedham, far famed for its beautiful church, and also as being the happy artistic hunting-ground of John Constable, R.A. Of all places, I should advise Dedham to be visited. The church tower is beautiful, and the open porch or gallilee at its base remarkable. The panelled roof of the galilee contains most interesting carvings, in which roses, portcullises, coat armour, and

merchants' marks can be discerned. In the north aisle stands the beautiful tomb of the Clothier founder of the church; and there is a quaint monument in the chancel to "Roaring Rogers," a veritable Boanerges in his time, who made so much noise while preaching that the congregation found it more convenient to adjourn to the churchyard to listen, while he, from the pulpit, made the windows rattle again. Nor should the unique "wafer oven" in the chancel escape notice, nor the cruelly-mutilated north doorway. In Dedham itself the quaint street is ever pleasing, its ancient hostelries, "The Sun" and "The Marlboro' Head," both being worth a visit; the first for its picturesque inn yard, its quaint parlour-kitchen, with tiny spy-holes at the window used to look out for the coaches in coaching days; the last for its beautifully-carved beams in the comfortable little coffee-room. Just on the outskirts of Dedham, too, stands what is perhaps the most ancient factory building in England, certainly in Eastern England. Quadrangular in form, with a

DEDHAM.
CHURCH TOWER.



SPY-HOLE FOR COACHES
SUN INN DEDHAM.

RBB 20.9.92.
SUN INN,
DEDHAM.

OLD BAY &
SAY MILL, DEDHAM.
RBB. 20.9.92

quaintly-arched and now tumble-down gateway, heavily beamed, bracketed, and timbered, this old "bay and say" mill (baize and serge) well deserves a better fate.

Those who care to journey even a little farther along the beautiful Vale of Dedham may easily find their way to Langham, where an inspection of the peculiar chancel of the church will give an additional interest to a lovely walk.

Returning to Harwich, let us take the steamer and cross over to Felixstowe pier, a trip which occupies less than a quarter of an hour. Felixstowe pier is some distance from the now rising watering-place Felixstowe, and the walk to the town is neither pretty nor pleasing. It is possible to journey thither by train, but when the new station is opened nearer the town a great improvement will be effected. It seems that the present station was placed where it is with a view to building on the flats. The speculative public, however, declined to build on the flats, preferring the none too safe cliffs. Hence, the long low narrow stretch of land which lies between Felixstowe station and the Landguard Fort, marked out and fenced in square plots, has the appearance of a huge cattle-market, minus the drovers and their beasts.

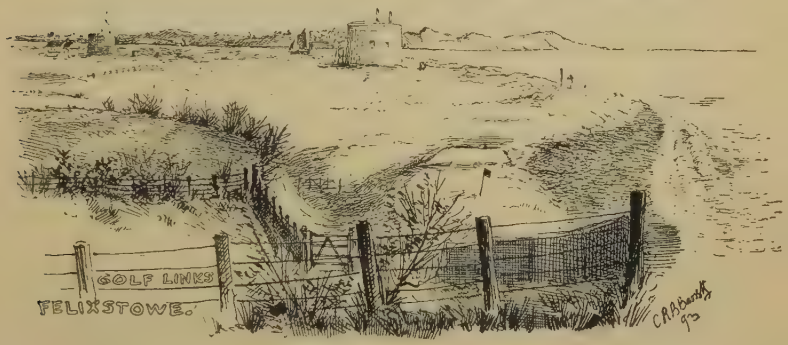
Seawards, the famous Landguard Fort occupies the very extremity of this narrow spit, thus guarding on that side the entrance to Harwich Harbour. The story of how this fort was nearly taken by 3,000 Dutchmen, who landed stealthily on the flats, is somewhat comic. The attempt, a bold one, and cleverly conceived, would undoubtedly have been successful had it not been for an armed vessel, which fired not at the invaders but at the shingle, with the result that

the hail of the small pebbles knocked up by the round shot created a panic, and the Hollanders fled. Old prints of the Landguard Fort give it so many different appearances that it is only reasonable to suppose that it must have been subject to considerable alterations at different dates. One print, which lies before me as I write, shows it as quadrangular, with square crenellated bastions at the four corners. Apparently a palisaded fosse is without the wall; and within the enceinte a long double-gabled building, seemingly a barrack, is surmounted by a bell cupola, other buildings of smaller dimensions also standing in the fortress-yard. From the style of a large ship which rides at anchor in very shallow water, the print appears to belong to the middle of the eighteenth century. Felixstowe itself is a most irregularly built place, on the sea front at least; system in the laying out of the plan of the streets being for the most part conspicuous for its absence. The cliffs, too, give much trouble, as the ever-restless sea is continually attacking them, and strong quoins and walls have to be constructed to prevent a downfall. Still the place is pleasant enough for those who do not seek the noise and bustle of more crowded seaside resorts, such as Yarmouth, Clacton, or Southend.

Felixstowe claims for itself a certain celebrity—to wit, the possession of a superior breed of the common or domestic donkey! The place possesses two hotels only, one at the station end called the "Ordnance," the other at the farther end of Felixstowe known as the "Bath;" this last has the advantage of a small garden usually kept gay with flowers, and of much local celebrity therefore. Apparently flower gardens are not common hereabouts.

Beyond the Bath Hotel, either by the road or by the shore,

the well-known golf links are reached. Here over the grassy and sandy stretch of ground this now popular game is played. The Felixstowe Golf Club is a large one, and there is close to the edge of the links a convenient club-house. Two useless old Martello towers stand just on the edge of



the shore, and near the second one is Bawdsey Ferry, on the River Deben, which here finds its way into the sea from Woodbridge. Felixstowe church, dedicated to SS. Peter and Paul, stands at some distance from the town, an inconvenience not uncommon in these parts, but one which is about to be remedied by the building of a new church. Indeed, a temporary structure is already in use on the beach. Ancient yet uninteresting is the only opinion to be formed of the church of Felixstowe. Much restored, so as to appear quite modern, there is nothing on the exterior worthy of note, save a small carving above the south porch door. A little fair wood-work is in the interior, though it is not of any great interest, and the font, an octagonal one, has on its sides some roughly sculptured emblems, presumably those of the Passion.

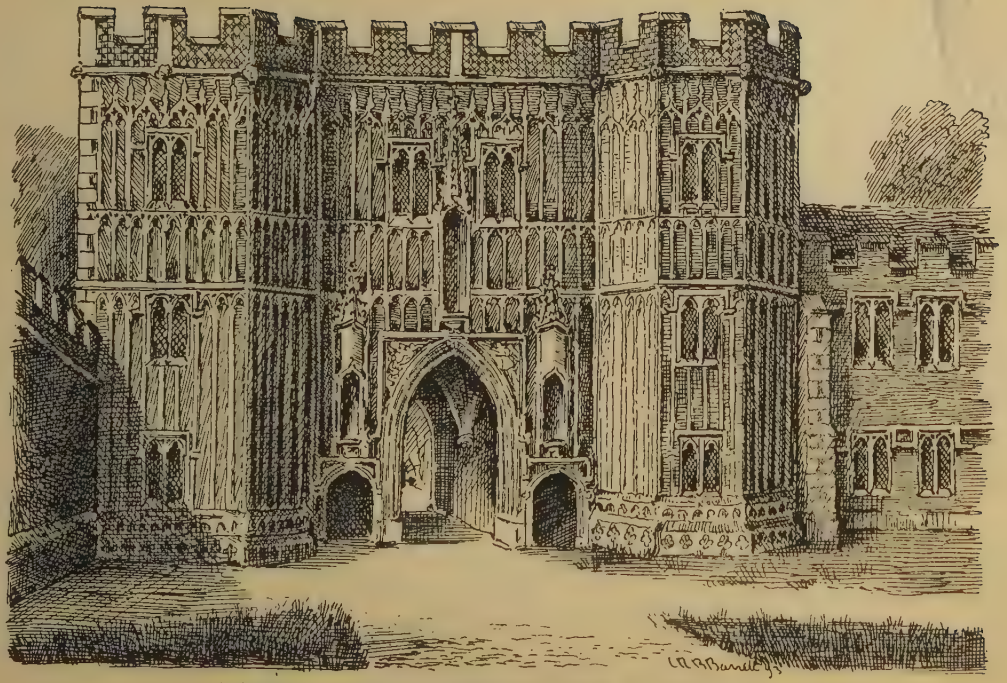
The walks around Felixstowe are varied, though, beyond, views of sea and river, there is not a great deal to interest the visitor. Walton, Trimley St. Mary with its church, Kirton, and Falkenham may, however, with advantage be taken in a round, returning from Falkenham to Trimley, and thence home to Felixstowe, either by road or by rail from Walton. Walton is about a mile and a half from the sea, and about a mile from Felixstowe, with which place for Local Board purposes it was incorporated in 1887. Its church was once a fine one, and dated from the fourteenth century, but time and weather have played sad havoc with it, and it is but a wreck of its former self. Trimley St. Mary and Trimley St. Martin are adjoining parishes, and have this peculiarity, that their churches lie close together. The church of St. Mary is an early English building with a ruined tower, which contains a picturesque doorway and west window, between which runs a band of scutcheon decorated quatrefoil, one of which is supposed to bear the arms of Thomas de Brotherton, the builder of the church in the reign of Edward I. The church of Trimley St. Martin is not so ancient and presents no feature for remark.

About half a mile from the sister churches formerly stood the mansion known as Old Grimston Hall, the birthplace of the celebrated navigator, Thomas Cavendish, or Candish. Thomas Cavendish was born about 1555, and is first heard of at sea when he was thirty years of age, having joined the adventure commanded by Grenville on behalf of Raleigh. Cavendish then commanded a ship of his own, his destination being Virginia. The fleet sailed from Plymouth on April 9th, and consisted of seven ships. Throughout the voyage they appear to have committed numerous acts of piracy against

the Spaniards, capturing vessels and holding the crews to ransom. Virginia was reached on June 26th. A few days later Cavendish explored the land with a selected company from the fleet, and made certain discoveries in North Carolina. The explorers behaved very badly to the natives on this expedition. On August 25th the fleet returned to England, capturing a rich Spanish vessel by the way. Cavendish, on his return, began to prepare for a great expedition on his own account, and started with three ships, June 10th, 1586. The incidents of this voyage were most exciting, at one time fighting, at another studying the manners and arts of the Patagonians, at a third encountering terrific storms in his weather-beaten and never too-well-equipped ships. January 14th, 1587, finds him in the Straits of Magellan, which he had been for eleven days trying to get through, and which occupied him for at least a month more. At length, on February 24th, he entered the Pacific and sailed along the coast of Chili. Here a Spanish prisoner escaped, and roused all his countrymen along the coast. Wherever the piratical adventurers landed, fighting took place, and the combats were mostly decided in their favour. Richly-laden prizes were taken, towns burnt, prisoners held to ransom, and even tortured till information was obtained. At length the two remaining vessels of Cavendish were nearly freighted with booty when a richer prize, the richest in those parts, was captured—to wit, the long-expected *Great St. Anna* from the Philippines. Of the seven hundred tons of rich merchandise which it contained, Cavendish could only secure forty, and ruthlessly burnt the remainder. He sailed for England on November 19th, arriving off the Lizard after many and varied adventures on September 3rd in the following year. Even then he was

nearly wrecked in the Channel, and did not reach Plymouth till September 10th. Cavendish seems soon to have squandered his ill-gotten wealth at Court, and in 1591 again started on the war-path, this time with a fleet of four ships. Ill luck and bad weather accompanied him. His men lost confidence in their leader. Lastly, Cavendish in his own ship the *Leicester* galleon, and with the *Roebuck*, when half way through the Straits of Magellan, attempted to return to Brazil with Davis in the *Desire* and the other vessels. The fleet sailed, but in the night of May 20th, 1592, the *Leicester* and the *Roebuck* parted company from the other two ships. Shortly after this the *Roebuck* deserted her consort. Cavendish in the *Leicester* now tried to make for home, but, broken down by disappointment and misery, died at sea. He accused Davis of deserting him, but this was an unfounded charge, as that hardy mariner had made no less than three attempts to find his old commander. What this ill-fated expedition went through may be judged from the fact that Davis's ship, the *Desire*, reached Bearhaven in 1593 with only fifteen weak men alive out of a crew of seventy-six.

Kirton is neither pretty nor interesting, but Falkenham possesses a curious and very ancient little church, dedicated to St. Etheldreda, some say to St. Ethelbert. It is built of flint and brick, with an apsidal chancel. The western tower, which is embattled and pinnacled, is a fine one. From Falkenham the road back to Trimley is not difficult, and the round suggested in these pages will be found to be both interesting and picturesque.



THE GATEHOUSE, ST OSYTH.

ROUND ST. OSYTH.

ST. OSYTH.

ST. OSYTH, with its curious church and interesting old priory, is a village distant three miles from Brightlingsea and about the same from the rising watering-place of Clacton-on-Sea. In ancient days St. Osyth was called variously Cise or Chich, the origin of which nomenclature appears to be very doubtful. The present name was derived from the virgin martyr in whose honour the priory was founded, a foundation which replaced the Saxon nunnery—the premier religious house in Essex. Not a trace now remains of this original nunnery, nor, indeed, of the original church mentioned in the legend of St. Osyth—and here a certain difficulty appears, as the legend of St. Osyth is told by not a few ancient writers and with not a few variations as to detail. Probably one account is as true as another in this case, and I will therefore give but a brief digest of the legend. St. Osyth was of noble birth, being the daughter of King Frithwald and Wilburga, daughter of Penda, King of Mercia. She

was brought up and educated by St. Modwen, who, having built two monasteries, ruled one herself and placed St. Edith, the sister of King Alfred, in authority over the other. St. Osyth was sent by St. Edith, with whom she had for some time resided, to take a book and a message to St. Modwen, and, chancing to fall into the river by the way was drowned. Three days later, owing to a vision, she was sought there, and in answer to the prayers of St. Modwen and St. Edith was restored to life. Subsequently, under the compulsion of her parents, she was married to Sighere, King of the East Saxons, but the marriage was never consummated. One day while Sighere was absent hunting a stag of surpassing beauty, his wife seized the opportunity of taking the veil, and on the return of her husband she was

found vowed to cloister life. It appears that eventually Sighere built her a monastery at Chich, whither St. Osyth retired with certain other maidens and pursued a life of great austerity. This nunnery was in 653 attacked, plundered, and destroyed by the Danes, the names of Inguar and Hubba being handed down as the leaders. St. Osyth being seized was sorely tried by threats of punishment in the endeavour to make her forsake her faith, and upon her scornful refusal to sacrifice to the Danish gods was at once decapitated. This took place in a little wood at a spot where from that day a spring of water gushed forth. But the most remarkable event was to follow. No sooner was the head of St. Osyth cut off than she arose, and taking her head in her hands walked with it to the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, half a mile distant, where she knocked at the door and then fell dead. How it happened that the nunnery was destroyed and the church escaped the legend does not state; nor indeed is there any hint of the effect of so extraordinary an occurrence upon the minds of the Danes who were present. King Frithwald and her mother having obtained the body of St. Osyth, placed it in a leaden chest, and buried it at Aylesbury; where miracles at once began to be wrought, till the removal by stealth of her body to Chich changed the scene thereof. The adventures of the man who stole the body are curious, but he must have been influentially backed, as we find Maurice, Bishop of London, and the Bishop of Rochester both assisting at the honourable second entombment at Chich. The Bishop of Rochester was on the occasion cured of a serious malady. Many of the miracles are mentioned in detail, but they are too lengthy to quote here.

The Nunnery of St. Osyth then lay ruined and desolate until the reign of Henry I., when between the years 1108 and 1120 Richard de Belmeis, Bishop of London, founded there a house of Augustinian canons, the first prior being William de Corbeuil. St. Osyth was buried in the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, which she had herself founded, and which is stated to have been upon the same site as the present church; but it is open to doubt whether there have not been three churches in all at St. Osyth upon the present site. The original Saxon church, doubtless a small one, gave way to a larger church, or had a large nave added to it. Portions of this nave can, I think, be traced in the perpendicular church which now exists. It is worthy of remark that the chancel of St. Osyth church is a very deep and narrow one, and might easily have been built upon the actual ground plan of the original Saxon church. Bishop Belmeis from the tomb in St. Osyth removed one arm of the Saint, which he encased in a proper receptacle and deposited in the priory church. It is curious to note that at the Suppression of Monasteries not the arm of St. Osyth, but the skull was discovered among the treasures of the priory, as appears by the catalogue of effects. Bishop Belmeis died in 1127, and was buried in the priory. Four years previous to the death of Belmeis, William de Corbeuil, the first prior, had been made Archbishop of Canterbury. He was a man of evil reputation, being notorious for his intense greed for gold. His conduct with regard to Stephen and the Empress Matilda stamps him as a man who held an oath in but slight esteem. Corbeuil died in 1136. It were too tedious to enumerate the benefactions by which the originally small priory became, next to Waltham Holy Cross and the Nunnery

of Barking, the most wealthy religious house in the country. Suffice it to say that at the time of the Suppression its revenues amounted to £682 1*s.* 6*d.*

The present buildings of St. Osyth's Priory, at least of the older portion, date only from the reign of the last abbot but one, who was elected in 1495 and died in 1533. The last abbot was John Colchester, *alias* Witherick, who had been prior, and it was under his rule that the subscription to the King's supremacy was signed in 1534. Some of the estates of the priory were alienated in 1538 by licence, and on July 28, 1539, Abbot Colchester, the prior, and sixteen canons signed the deed of surrender to the King, when St. Osyth, its priory church, its treasures, its manors, and its buildings were handed over to the King's commissioners, by name Sir John St. Clere, Sir William Purton, John Pekynes, Thomas Myldmay, and Francis Jobson. Sir John St. Clere belonged to an ancient Essex family, whose chief dwelling, St. Clere's Hall, stood about half a mile south of St. Osyth Church. He appears to have been very active in the matter of his duties, and a curious letter of his to Thomas Lord Cromwell yet exists, in which St. Clere reports an interview with the luckless John Beche (abbot of St. John's, Colchester). He states that he advised the abbot to submit to spoliation as the abbot of St. Osyth, "an honest man," had already done. Beche refused, urging that "he knew by his learning he cannot take it by right and law: wherefore in my conscience I cannot be content, nor shall he ever have it with my heart and will." St. Clere states that he replied, "Beware of such learning; for if ye hold such learning as ye learned at Oxenford when ye were young, ye will be hanged, and ye are worthy." John Beche was

hanged. Of the juggling which went on to obtain the rich prize of the grant of St. Osyth's I cannot here enter into details. It is of course not surprising to find my Lord Audeley (then Sir Thomas), the chancellor of the Court of Augmentations, resorting to every possible artifice to obtain his desires. His letters on this subject are monuments of mean cringing subserviency, especially that one which concludes with a gouty lament—

> "Scribelid this Satyrday with a sore and akyng foote.
> "Your lordshippes assured to his pour
> "THOMAS AUDELEY, *Chancellor.*"

But Audeley did not get St. Osyth, and had to be content with Walden. Cromwell, who knew the value of the priory, had selected it as part of his own share of the plunder; and there were special reasons which made the place particularly valuable. Having been founded by a churchman (Bishop Belmeis) there were no descendants to lay any claim. The De Veres tried to establish a claim on the score of an ancient benefaction, but it was disallowed. So the abbot, John Colchester, was pensioned off, receiving £100 per annum and some of the plate, the prior had a pension of £10, five of the canons £8, and the remaining nine £6 13*s.* 4*d.* each. There is a most copious and detailed list of the property, landed and otherwise, of the priory of St. Osyth, in which each article has its assessed value written against it, and also in many cases the purchaser thereof, the names of Sir John Seyntcler (St. Clere) and Francis Jobson occurring with great frequency. Jobson, it will be remembered, was the son of a Colchester merchant, and married a descendant of Jane Shore, in consequence of which he impaled the arms of England, Lisle and Mortimer with a bastoon

sinister. He was knighted in the reign of Edward VI., and died in 1573. Besides the seat on the Court of Augmentations he was lieutenant of the Tower, 1564, in succession to Sir Richard Blount. Jobson amassed great wealth, chiefly by the plunder of religious houses. Of the size and extent of the nunnery of St. Osyth at the time of the martyrdom of the saint nothing is known, and it is only by tradition that it is held to have occupied the same site as the priory founded by Bishop Belmeis early in the twelfth century. Relics of this foundation may yet be seen at St. Osyth, but they are scanty. Just without the gatehouse, in a wall known as the "Bury," which runs at right angles to that building, is a large and heavily moulded circular arch. On the other side of the precincts are fragments of another arch, and there is also the beautiful crypt which forms the basement of the building shown in my largest sketch. This crypt has been called a chapel, in my opinion wrongly, for the rule of the Catholic Church has ever forbidden domestic buildings to be above any place devoted to worship. Now, the upper portion of this building may have been a chapel, and very likely was a chapel, but this crypt could never have been the chapel *par excellence.* The shape and position of the now destroyed priory church has been ascertained, and the details thereof are luckily preserved to us. It was cruciform, and possessed a nave with a south aisle only, two transepts and a chancel, north and south chapels, with a vestry pertaining to the former, and an additional chapel at the north-west end. The tower was without a spire, and contained five bells. There were three chief altars, that of the patroness saint being in the choir, those of Jesus and

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ST OSYTH
RUINS.

the Virgin in the side chapels. Record remains of two pairs of organs in the rood loft and one in the Lady Chapel. Cloisters and the chapter-house stood upon the north side, space being perhaps supplied for the former by the absent north aisle. Mention is made of a dormitory, which had a north aisle and a "rere dorter" or dormitory behind it. The refectory occupied one side of the conventual quadrangle, upon the west of which and near to the west end of the church stood the abbot's lodgings. Two halls were in existence at the time of the Suppression; the old one had a chamber attached to it, the new one, or great hall, had a "greate chamber" above it. Two particular rooms are mentioned as being named the "moon chamber" and the "sun and star chamber" respectively, names which probably originated in the decorations of their walls and ceilings. The crypt of which I have made mention is a very beautiful little building with a groined roof, supported by very slender central shafts. Recently it has been converted into a species of private chapel, coloured glass being inserted in the windows, and a stone pseudo-altar-rail now blocks the entrance to a side recess. It should be added that the level of this crypt floor is beneath the level of the ground, another argument to show that it never was the chapel. The present conventual buildings consist of the beautiful gatehouse, the abbot's tower, and the clock tower, to which must be added the large window (now beautifully restored) which forms the oriel in the modern drawing-room. The general appearance of the priory may be gathered from the sketch, which shows the place as viewed from the open green in front of the gatehouse. Behind the many-buttressed walls, and showing above the

ilex trees, the turreted abbot's tower is seen on the right; next to it appears the clock tower with the adjoining gable, while on the left the wing of the gatehouse buildings just comes in. The clock tower and the adjoining buildings will appear more in detail in the sketch taken beneath the great gateway. Now almost the whole of these buildings are faced with dressed stone and flint in squares, and luckily they have been so looked after as to be safe from the effects of wind and storm. A curious carved stone chimney should especially be noted; also the extremely elegant cluster of four which appears in the sketch of the ruins. The abbot's tower may be seen from the garden, where its peculiar design will at once be apparent. From the top of this tower the view over land and water is very fine indeed.

It remains to mention the gatehouse (see frontispiece), which, though less romantically situated than the famed gatehouse of Battle Abbey, is in itself far more beautiful. This noble building consists of two rather dissimilar

flanking towers, which are connected by the gatehouse proper and its grand wide arch. Wings of three bays extend upon either side. The wall of the "Bury" joins the end

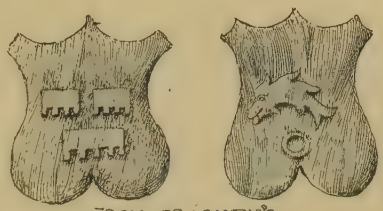
of the left-hand flanking tower, and runs out across the open green space in front of the gate. Over the gateway there is one floor only, though the flanking towers beneath this level

are divided into two rooms each. Beautifully ornamental dressed stone and flint work decorates the main portion of the gatehouse in a somewhat similar manner to that upon

the gate of St. John's Abbey at Colchester. The embattled top is, however, different, and is composed of dressed flint and stone disposed in alternating bays of squares and diamonds. Three fine niches are in the central part of the gatehouse, one being upon each side of the gate arch, while that in the centre has a crocketed canopy reaching to the uppermost drip stone string course, on which the parapet rests. The spandrels of the archway, representing St. Michael and the dragon, are very beautiful. On going through the gateway, which has noble groining to its roof, the porter's lodge is seen, in a tolerably perfect state; nor is the inner face of this grand range of buildings inferior in interest to its exterior, though it is of course far plainer in appearance.

I must now speak of the great oriel window of the present drawing-room. Towards the end of the last century the mullions were removed and the window was blocked up. Recently the window has been restored, and many fragments of the original mullions have been utilized. The large series of ancient devices, heraldic and otherwise, which ornament it both inside and out renders this window one of the most remarkable objects in the whole county. The tracery in the splay of the window is very ornate and very elegant, containing no less than seventy-two different ornamentations, which take the form of coat armour, knots, badges, religious emblems, rebusses, and monograms. From the date 1527, which twice occurs, we may know that the builder was the last abbot but one, John Vyntoner, even without the testimony of his rebus, which, with many a variation, occurs upon the scutcheons, sometimes accompanied by his monogram, at others alone. An immense

amount of ingenuity has been expended in constructing "Vine" and "ton" rebusses both here and in a valuable series of oak panels dispersed through the modern house. Tunstall, Bishop of London, appears with his arms, three combs; the three crowns of St. Osyth are there; the five wounds; cross keys and sword, surmounted by the Papal tiara; and the arms of the original Earls of Essex and Eu, the Bourchiers. The symbol of Christianity, the fish, is represented; a white hart bearing a bunch of grapes; the head of the martyred St. Osyth; and the common Tudor device of the portcullis. The royal arms and many another badge or shield enrich the splay of this glorious relic of Tudor art.



FROM ST OSYTH'S.

Nor indeed are the oak panels, of which I have spoken before, of less interest; and it almost seems a pity that they could not have all been collected to line the walls of one great chamber, for it is only in recent times that they have been placed in the positions they now occupy. This is, however, a question of taste merely; the panels are safe and well cared for. If, however, they are a specimen of the woodwork with which the Abbot Vyntoner enriched his house, St. Osyth must indeed have been a glorious building before evil days fell upon the Church. Strange it is to relate, yet true, that the date when the buildings and the church were demolished is quite unknown. That they were carefully preserved at first is evident from documents still

extant, though the very lead on the roofs was measured and valued, the very pots and pans in the kitchen were valued and sold, and the plate, vestments, relics, and furniture fell a prey to the spoilers, not a little being removed to the neighbouring St. Clere's Hall. The priory itself fell to the share of Thomas Cromwell, but on his attainder and execution reverted to the King, who seems at one time to have contemplated erecting the estate into an "honor." This was not, however, carried out, and in the reign of Edward VI. St. Osyth was granted to the Princess Mary for her life or until her marriage, the reversion being given to Sir Thomas D'Arcy, Kt., who had married Lady Elizabeth de Vere, daughter of the fifteenth Earl of Oxford. Sir Thomas was created Lord D'Arcy of Chich in 1550. St. Osyth seems by arrangement to have been relinquished by the Princess Mary in exchange for the manor of Eye and the castle and park of Framlingham in Norfolk, together with other lands. Lord D'Arcy shortly after obtained possession of St. Osyth, but the grant proved to be bad owing to a technicality, and it was needful to obtain a fresh one. This fresh grant cost the new peer £3,974 9*s.* 4½*d.* The D'Arcys were an ancient Essex family who had been settled in the county for centuries. Its members had supplied sheriffs for three generations, but none had prospered so well as the first Lord D'Arcy. He, besides holding important posts about the court in both the reign of Henry VIII. and Edward VI., at length obtained a peerage and the Garter. Dying in 1558 at Wivenhoe, he was buried at St. Osyth. The first Lord D'Arcy made additions to the priory, and perhaps destroyed as well. Evidence of his handiwork is shown by the D'Arcy "cinque-

foil" and the Vere "mullet." His son and successor, John, second Lord D'Arcy, acted as host at St. Osyth to Queen Elizabeth, as we learn from Nichol's *Progresses*, in both 1561 and 1579. The second Lord D'Arcy was the first outwardly conforming Protestant of his race; it is, however, doubtful whether his conformity was other than assumed. He died in 1580-81 and was buried in St. Osyth's Church, by his will causing his executor to erect monuments to his father and mother, himself and his wife, monuments which are there to this day. The third Lord D'Arcy married Mary, the daughter and coheiress of Sir Thomas Kytson, in 1583. They did not agree, and after a few years (during which time a son and four daughters were born) determined to separate. This they did, and lived apart for forty years. The son and the brothers of the third lord dying childless, a difficulty occurred with regard to the succession to the estates; and to prevent St. Osyth from reverting to the Crown at his death, he obtained a new grant at a cost of £500 to himself, his heirs and assigns for ever. This third lord seems to have openly professed the Catholic faith, and ran great risks of losing all his possessions for recusancy, Carr, the notorious Viscount Rochester, having an eager desire to obtain the reversion thereof. The settlement of the estates caused much trouble, but eventually St. Osyth went to his daughter Elizabeth, who had married Sir Thomas Savage. Lord D'Arcy had been created in 1621 Viscount Colchester, with remainder to his son-in-law, Sir Thomas Savage, and in 1626 was advanced to the dignity of Earl Rivers with a similar remainder. He died in 1639, his wife surviving him five years. Her will, which is of immense length, is remarkable for the extra-

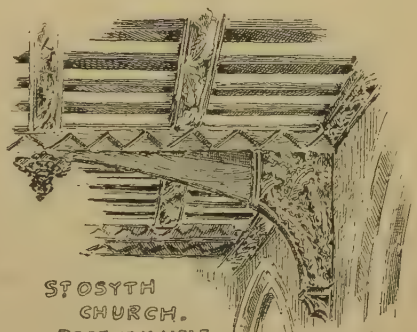
ordinarily minute directions which it contains as to the disposition of her old clothes. The daughter of the third earl, who lost her husband before the death of her father, was a Catholic, and suffered much persecution on that account. Nevertheless, she was by patent created Countess Rivers in 1641. In the following year a riotous mob of Essex fanatics wrecked her house at St. Osyth, destroying all her property in the most wanton manner. The Countess managed to escape to Bury St. Edmunds, where with difficulty she obtained admittance into the town and shelter for one night. Afterwards she escaped to London, having not only had her property at St. Osyth destroyed, but also her house and park at Melford. Her losses have been estimated at over £100,000. After many troubles, including imprisonment for debt and the payment of a compounding fee to the Parliament of £16,979 9*s.* 10*d.*, the unfortunate Lady Rivers died in 1650. From this time forward, till St. Osyth passed to the third Earl of Rochford in 1710, it ceased to be the chief mansion of the family, but its new possessor added a modern house to the then much dilapidated place. I have purposely passed by this period of family history of the Nassaus, Earls of Rochford, as St. Osyth was in no way concerned with it; and indeed some of the events which took place between the dates 1650 and 1710 may well be allowed to rest. The fourth Earl of Rochford was high in favour with George II., and filled many important offices. He is chiefly remarkable as being the only man of note who was not abused by Junius, nay, was even mentioned with praise. The Earl was succeeded by a nephew, who died childless in 1830, when the earldom became extinct.

The church of St. Osyth, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, is a large and irregularly built but very interesting structure, consisting of a stumpy but very massive brick tower, nave of four bays (the pillars of which are of brick, cased with plaster), aisles, and corresponding chapels, and a chancel. Architecturally, the greater portion of the church is of the earlier perpendicular style, but some portions are decidedly of greater antiquity. Rubble and flint, similar to the work in the older portions of the priory, are the material used for the building, with the exception of the tower; and it may be noted with regard to this tower, that the buttresses are of a strength altogether disproportionate to its height and size, and that the built-out stair turret at the south-eastern angle is also singularly lacking in elegance. The carving at the north door should be noted, where are to be seen the crowned M and a hand armed with a sword which is breaking a spiked wheel. Within the church, however, one cannot help being much interested, not only in the tombs and memorials, but also in the curious arrangement of the chancel arch, not to mention several quaint remains of ecclesiastical seating arrangements. I will first notice more particularly the chancel arch, which is surmounted by three flat pointed windows, and stands not in the centre of the east wall of the nave, but upon the north side. This, I incline to think, was not the original chancel arch of the church, that having stood where the two pierced buttresses are now to be seen, and where, in all probability, the original rood screen stood. In many places may be seen relics of mural paintings. The wall of the south aisle was formerly so decorated, but the paintings had been concealed by whitewash. It is to be regretted that,

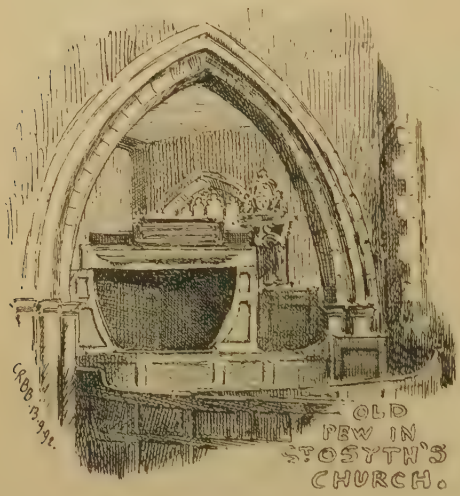
when the restorations were made, the plaster was stripped from the south aisle and the paintings destroyed. Upon the most easterly pier on the north side is a painter's mark, of unusually late date, probably recording the initials of some workman employed. It consists of a square surrounded by an irregular wavy outline, containing the initials J. R. and date 1651. The lepers' window is still to be seen, though now closed up. Of the font I give a sketch, and it will be observed that the devices thereon are curious; the central panel formerly contained a figure, which was there, I was informed, within living memory. This figure has now vanished, but upon a small square stone the monogram I.H.C is still visible. The panel upon the left bears a heart with rather uncommon twists issuing from it, while that on the right has a knot badge of good design. An old and ruinous wooden cover surmounts the vessel. In the north aisle the carved oak roof is both good and rare in type, as far as its carvings are concerned, especially if the curiously half-decorated brackets are considered. My sketch shows only a small portion of this roof, but enough to give an idea of the whole; and it will easily be seen that the conventional foliage of the bracket sketched is quite unusual. I am

inclined to think that the pendants in the centre of the beams are portions of carving which have been removed from some other part of the roof and placed in their present position. At the north chapel is a regulation "family pew," which would in itself be sufficiently curious were it not completely eclipsed by another in the south chapel, which seems to be modelled upon the lines of an ancient family coach, and is actually provided with a roof.

I now come to the chancel and the tombs. A large sum of money has been recently spent on this chancel, but opinions differ as to the success of the restoration. The ancient "fold," the peculiar and very rare horseshoe arrangement of altar-rails, has been removed, to be replaced by a modern copy in stone and marble; the pavement being laid down with an expensive (but inappropriate) mosaic. Now, as everybody knows, this "fold" ecclesastically was incorrect, but it existed, albeit out of repair, and possessed the merit of antiquity; its date, which I have endeavoured without success to trace, in all probability was that of the Laudian persecution, and the "fold" represents the outcome of some compromise upon the Essex altar-rails question. To say that this form was adopted



because the tombs in the chancel rendered the space so narrow, is upon the face of it absurd. Lovers of antiquity will, I believe, agree with me upon the above subject; for if it was absolutely necessary to remove the "fold," the substitution of an ordinary rail would assuredly have been more in accordance with the dictates of common sense. In this chancel the tombs are very fine ones; that on the north side has two recumbent figures, and marks the grave of John, Lord D'Arcy of Chich and his wife Frances, the daughter of Richard, Lord Rich. The elbow of the effigy of Lord D'Arcy had recently been knocked off, and I was informed that this was the mischievous act of one of two persons sketching in the church who called themselves artists. A very similar tomb is on the south side of the chancel, which was erected to Thomas, First Lord D'Arcy and his wife the lady Elizabeth de Vere. Upon this side of the chancel the arch communicating with the south chapel was until recent times blocked up. Not long since it was opened, and if left open would have been well enough, but

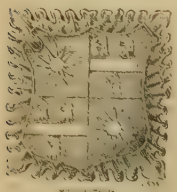


unfortunately it has been filled with a stone screen, very handsome in its way, but very incongruous. This chapel belonged in former days to St. Clere's Hall, but within it not a few members of the D'Arcy family are buried, the mural tablet which appears behind the "family coach" being a memorial of many of those who lie there. Let it not be supposed that money has been stinted in the restoration of St. Osyth Church; far from it, money has been lavished, yet the reflection remains that under other control the results might have been far more satisfactory. A church is a public building, and its reparation or restoration should be committed to some recognized authority. A man can do what he pleases with his private dwelling: antiquaries may silently deplore the results, and have, indeed, no right to openly complain. In the case of a parish church, and so interesting a parish church as St. Osyth, matters are different: *hinc illæ lacrymæ.*

I have previously mentioned the St. Clere family, and it will be now needful to touch briefly on the relics of the old manor house (near St. Osyth) which was formerly their home. It stands upon the other side of a small valley to the south-east of the church, and is approached by an avenue of gnarled and twisted trees, which evidently in former times led to the bridge across the moat. The moat is still there in part, and full of water, but the bridge and gatehouse (if any) have gone. From the outside there does not appear to be anything of interest in St. Clere's, but within I succeeded in finding various quaint bits of old work.* The door which admits into the house opens into

* The manor house of St. Clere's is not usually shewn to the public, but its history is of so much interest that I have included it in this brief memoir of St. Osyth.

that which was once the hall of the manor house, and in which there are the remains of the old screen. Curious antique pictures hang about its walls, nearly all of them being in the last stage of decay; the wonder is that they do not fall out of their frames. In one room is a small carved scutcheon bearing the St. Clere blazon, azure a sun in splendour or, quartered with another coat. This is absolutely the only relic of the old family that is left in St. Osyth. The hall is floored with brick, and the staircase arrangements, though modernized, are very quaint. But the oldest and most interesting part of the house must be sought behind the hall screen, where a huge arch encloses an old-fashioned fireplace, in the rear of which are the queerest nooks and recesses imaginable. Only a few days before my visit a strange wooden sword had been discovered among the beams of this fireplace, and I incline to think this sword may have done duty at many an old Essex Christmas revel. Here too there is an old staircase, the steps of which are formed of solid blocks of oak worn with the tread of centuries. This stair leads to two or three interesting rooms, one of which has a coved ceiling panelled in square compartments with oak mouldings. From an old white-washed door I obtained the sketch of a good hammered-iron door-handle, which I have converted into an initial letter. Upon the same door is a long latch curiously ornamented with a rudely incised pattern.



The St. Cleres, whose pedigree may be seen in the Visitation of Essex, held the manor here under the Earls of Oxford as early as 1334, and this tenure continued without

a break till 1454. In 1546 we find Sir John S'Clere holding the manor of St. Clere's Hall, or Chichridill, in St. Osyth of the Earl of Oxford by the third part of a knight's fee. He also held the manor of Frodewick or Frodwick. This Sir John was the Commissioner of the Court of Augmentations, and throve mightily on the spoils of the neighbouring priory. Sixteen years later these manors were absorbed into the priory lands by purchase, and became the property of the D'Arcys. The St. Cleres as an Essex family then ceased to exist.

WIVENHOE, FINGRINGHOE, AND BRIGHTLINGSEA.

About five miles below Colchester, at a point where the river Colne begins to widen to an appreciable extent, stands the yacht-building and fishing village of Wivenhoe or Wyvenhoe. Upon the opposite bank, in the parish of East Donyland, is Rowhedge, a member of the Cinque Port of Sandwich. Beyond Rowhedge on the left hand and lying more inland the cottages of Fingringhoe are visible on the hill side.

It might be expected that there would be a good deal worth seeing, and perhaps not a little worth sketching, at Wivenhoe; there is, however, very little indeed. The church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, shows but few signs of antiquity, owing to the lavish handiwork of the restorer.

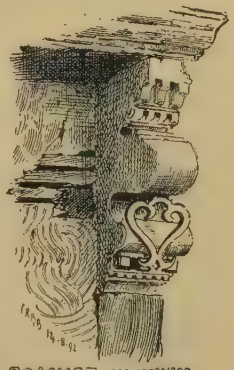
Three brasses are worth looking at, especially that of Lady Elizabeth Scroope, who died in 1537. On a house which faces the west end of the church will be seen a cornice decorated with a vine-pattern in parge-work. It is in parge-work alone that Wivenhoe gives evidences of its age. Down a side street not far from the church there is a really fine example of this effective style of decoration. The portion which I selected for my sketch is about one-eighth of the whole design, which with slight variations covers the entire first floor front of the house. It will be possible to judge of the richness of this parge-work from the portion sketched; to have taken the whole house would not have been worth while, as beyond some curious brackets at the back there was nothing either in roof, chimney, or window to make a subject.* The brackets, of which I have sketched one, are now unfortunately from age and exposure in a very damaged condition. They are fixed high up just beneath the eaves, and are best seen from a most unsavoury back-yard. As they are of a peculiar type, I considered it well to retain a record of them in case of

WIVENHOE. CORNICE.

SMALL PART OF A WALL WIVENHOE.

* On the walls of a house on the left-hand side in Foundry Yard, High Street, Colchester, may still be seen a somewhat similar pattern, but simpler in design and much mutilated.

accidents. The view down the river towards Brightlingsea is pretty, but more adapted for brush and colour than pen and ink as a subject. Far away beyond the boats and yachts, which for the most part seem to be out of commission or for sale, the tower of Brightlingsea Church stands up among the trees. Less impressive than the estuary of the Blackwater, the river Colne from Wivenhoe to the sea is far more pleasing. Here, as everywhere else in the flatter portions of the county, the cloud effects are peculiarly fine.



BRACKET, WIVENHOE.

In the State Papers the references to Wivenhoe are mainly concerned with the building of ships. Mention is made in 1636 by Dr. Aylett, the Commissary of Bishop Laud, of some difficulty in connection with the presentation to the rectory of Wivenhoe, then vacant by the death of Mr. Cornwell. The right of presentation had been obtained for the King in right of the infant son of Sir Roger Townsend, deceased, to whom the patronage belonged, but

WIVENHOE.

this was claimed by Serjeant Whitfield as mortgagee of the manor of Wivenhoe. Dr. Aylett suggests to Archbishop Laud that by his influence perhaps the Serjeant might be induced not to press his claims. The conclusion of the document refers to one Boroughs, of Colchester, then in custody for disturbing three congregations at three several churches on a Sunday morning, and exhibiting a very scandalous libel against Church governors and Church governments. In a letter from Dunkirk dated May 11, 1644, William Sandys writes to Sir Hugh Cholmley, Governor of Scarborough, announcing that he has sent him certain arms by the King's order in the *Sunflower*, of Wivenhoe (Giles Wiggoner, master). The arms consisted of 182 rapiers, 142 belts, and 320 muskets. Two bags of hops and six puncheons of currants were also dispatched by the same vessel. Payment for freight to the amount of £50 is to be made to Wiggoner within three days. On May 12, from the same writer, there is a letter to Marten Harpenson Van Tromp, Admiral of the States-General, at sea, describing the ship *Sunflower* and its lading, and adding: "I thought fit to certify you this that you may understand how the lading, ship and master with others in the ship are for his Majesty's special service, and of such concernment as may not be hindered by any of your Lordship's fleet without much prejudice to his Majesty's service, and unfitting omission of regard due to the Alliance." In February, 1654-55, we read that the frigate building by Robert Pardy, at Wivenhoe, is "top-timbered," and that the builder desires his third instalment of payment according to contract. At the same time certain ketches were being built at Wivenhoe, and William Healey is recommended for

the command of one of them, "He being well acquainted with the channel and the coast." Early in the next year Robert Page writes from Wivenhoe reporting progress in the building of two "advice boats" and repairing the *Drake.* He asks in this letter for a warrant to press caulkers in Suffolk. On February 9, 1655-56, the ketch is launched, being named the *Hind.* The captain, one Richard Country, reports that he has nine weeks' victuals on board, but that men are difficult to obtain; usually the victuals, not the men, were lacking. Four days later comes the conflicting statement that both the *Roe* and the *Hind* ketches were still on the stocks, and "having much work to be done," when he and his brother arrived, but that both have since been launched, and that the two captains were busily engaged in pressing men and getting provisions aboard. On March 3, Captain Country writes from the ketch *Hind*, at Harwich, stating that he sailed on February 17 for the Downs, where he was ordered by the General to join with the *Kent* and ply between the North Foreland and Orford Ness on the look-out for Dunkirkers; being, however, forced in again, he was then sent to ply off Harwich. In the year 1657 Thomas Lawrence, Deputy Mayor, the Aldermen, and others of Colchester, petition the Admiralty Commissioners. They state that "divers small Ostenders" have for several weeks infested the entrance to "our harbour," and have taken several vessels passing to and from London and on fishing affairs, to the ruin of divers families, and of the trade with London. They beg the employment of two "nimble" ketches to ply betwixt Harwich and the west of Kent, adding that as these private vessels are small and well piloted, the employment of some Wivenhoe vessels

will be an effectual means of keeping this coast clear, for "they know the passages amongst the sands." In 1659 we find the captain of one of these ketches plundering a hired hoy of Flushing, and which was manned by Englishmen. One Robert Walker, of Wivenhoe, was captain of the ketch, and the hoy was freighted with lime for the repair of the fortifications of Dunkirk. Walker chose to declare that the English crew were Swedes. He was, however, promptly arrested. At this date, from a contract note extant, the cost of building these ketches was at the rate of £6 per ton.

There appears in 1665 to have been a "Wivenhoe" ketch; possibly this was the new one to the building and naming of which there are several references in this year. Her captain, by name William Berry, writes to Sir William Batten, sending particulars of his late voyage to the North of Scotland, in search of the Dutch Fleet. He met with eleven Dutch men-of-war off North Shetland, and was chased and within shot for seven hours. He, however, managed to capture a galliot hoy, with eight Dutch pilots for their East India Fleet; but is now (July 28) obliged to lie in North Shields for repairs. In 1667, the Wivenhoe trawlers returned in all haste, and reported a fleet of 160 to 180 sail, "three of which were admirals," in the vicinity of the Nore. A galliot hoy, which was cruising at the same time and place, however, shortly after reduced this armada to "twelve or fourteen sail of Dutch," to the manifest relief of the public mind.

It may be worth while mentioning that, in Wivenhoe, the curious feudal law called "Marcheat" or "Marchet" was in force in ancient days. This was a fine paid to the lord of the place for permission to marry. It is known that a

SEE TOUR 1- PAG

St. Osyth early in the twelfth century. That it was in existence before the date of the marriage of the Empress Maud is certain from the fact that the priors of Blythburgh contributed five marks as an "aid" on that occasion. This religious house was always a small one; at times there were only three or four canons, and at the Suppression the establishment did not consist of more than five. Yet the priory was wealthy, being possessed of about £50 per annum clear income. To the tender mercies of Cardinal Wolsey the Austin Friars of Blythburgh owed the first attempt at their despoiling, for their house was one of those granted by Pope Clement VII. to the Cardinal for the purpose of endowing his new college at Ipswich. Wolsey fell, and for a time the canons of Blythburgh were spared. A few years later the Dissolution swept everything away.

THE WHITE HART
BLYTHBURGH.

By Henry VIII. the site, manor, and possessions of the priory appear to have been granted to Sir Arthur Hopton. Beyond the beautiful church, and the remains of the priory, there is but little of antiquarian interest left in the village. An old inn, the White Hart, has a quaint gable and some little carving in its interior. Of the Chapel of the Holy Rood not a trace now remains, nor, in the absence of all documentary evidence, is it possible to give any information regarding it, save that it stood upon the northern side of the chief street of Blythburgh, the street which led to Blythburgh Bridge.

It would not be easy to find in the whole county a church more interesting than Holy Trinity, Blythburgh, nor yet one

which is a sadder spectacle. As a structure it is extremely beautiful, with a wonderful roof and a clerestory which has been in its day the equal of the clerestory at Southwold. The general appearance of the fabric leads one to ascribe its date to the last half of the fifteenth century, with the exception of the tower, which probably belonged to an earlier church. Along the coping of the south aisle runs a fretted parapet, which has seemingly been recently restored. The numbers of buttresses along the aisles and plinths between the windows of the clerestory are very noticeable; upon the tops of the former carved figures still remain; but whether the six-and-thirty plinths of the clerestory were surmounted by figures or by pinnacles is not now easily ascertainable, though opinion inclines to the latter view. Beneath the east window runs an inscription of similar flint and stone work to that at Southwold. A small north aisle door is entered beneath a quaintly arched buttress. Even from the road the sad condition of the place as to its exterior is discernible, for window tracery stopped up by red bricks is apt to strike the eye; but within, the condition of this fine old church is pitiable in the extreme. Whatever good glass there was has been destroyed; the roof, piers, and arches require immediate attention, and it is to be hoped that lovers of antiquity will assist promptly in this most needful work. The parish itself is too small and too poor to do the work. An attempt is being made to raise funds, but without extra-parochial help this cannot but fail.

Two tombs of considerable antiquity are to be seen in the church. A sketch of one of these, probably a tomb of one of the Hoptons, forms the frontispiece of this book. The other tomb may reasonably be conjectured to be that of the last of the Swillington family who held the manor.

The handsome octagonal font was erected by one John

Masin and his wife Katherine, to whose donation the vaulting of the south porch, if not the porch itself, is due. Few visitors to the church will fail to notice the carving (now used as choir-stalls) which formerly adorned the chantry of the Hoptons. The coat armour thereon is that of Swillington and Roos. The screens in the church have been very badly mutilated. The alms-box is quaint, and of a very uncommon type, but unfortunately some person was allowed to "paint it up" a few years ago. The wooden lectern is a very fine example indeed, and should be carefully noted. Upon the ruins of the screen, on the south side of the chancel, stands a JACK, somewhat similar to that at Southwold, but smaller, and more out of condition; the original bell has apparently vanished. Perhaps the most noticeable carved woodwork in the church is the very interesting series of bench ends, which, despite their deplorable condition and frequent mutilation, are yet as fine as they are rare. The set of the deadly sins is very remarkable; one of them —"hypocrisy"—has furnished a sketch. The seasons, too, are singular, though not perhaps so good as "hypocrisy." The remainder, though very old, are more quaint than fine. It is needless to say that Blythburgh was visited with a view to the demo-

ALMS BOX BLYTHBURGH CH

HYPOCRISY. BLYTHBURGH CH

lition of superstitious images in 1643-4. Not, however, by the great William Dowsing in person, but by his deputy, Francis Jessup, who records that he "brake down three orate pro animabus, and gave order to take down above 200 pictures in eight days." Mention has been made of the roof, which is adorned by much coat armour once duly blazoned. I would gladly have given a list of the coats, but so damaged are they that it would be a work of much labour to attempt to decipher them, and the risk of error would be great.

The small but very picturesque village of Walberswick, of which a sketch, taken from the entrance to the port of Southwold, has already been given, lies rather over a mile from the last-named place; in fact, it is by means of the ferry at Walberswick that Dunwich can alone be easily reached by land. Of the antiquity of the place abundant documentary evidence exists, and by means of this its various stages of decay may be easily traced. Naturally, however, the partially ruined church is the most interesting spot in the present day, and consequently it claims the first notice. When Blythburgh was a flourishing town, Walberswick was a hamlet thereof, and a hamlet it still remains. The ruins on to which the present church seems, as it were, tacked, though in reality formed of the south aisle, are the relics of the second church which was erected in the place. The original building, which was thatched, stood some distance nearer to the port and close to the marshes. It would appear to have become ruinous about 1473, for record remains that at that date it was taken down. Lists of its ornaments are still preserved, and there is reason to believe that these, together with certain painted glass windows, were removed to the new church.

The new church was a very fine one, and must have cost the inhabitants a large sum. It contained a chapel of Our

Lady, the images of the Holy Trinity, the Rood, St. Andrew, St. John the Evangelist, St. James, St. Thomas, St. John Baptist, Virgin Mary, and Mary of Pity; altars high and low, St. John's and St. Nicholas's; a throne, the tables of St. George and King Harry, and an organ. From an account-book it would seem that this organ cost five nobles.

A few years later the north aisle was added, and the church was then finished. Its length was 124 feet, and breadth 60 feet. The chancel (a large one) occupied 41 feet of the entire length, and the nave was 27 feet wide. Like Southwold and Blythburgh, its clerestory had eighteen windows; and relics of two of these yet remain on the south side. The tower, which is above 90 feet in height, was formerly crowned by a wooden spire. The original document relating to the building of this tower is given in full by Gardner, and is curious. The masons employed were "Richard Russel, of Donewich, and Adam Powle, of Blythburgh."

The pinnacles, relics of which still surmount the tower, used to be decorated by gilt vanes, but these last have vanished.

At the close of the fifteenth century, when the church was new, its list of vestments and utensils is very imposing, a fact which will be understood by the bare mention of six copes and as many altar-cloths, besides many other vestments, chalices, hearse-cloths, &c. But the town was not wealthy in reality, for within a century we find the people obliged to sell the great bell, which weighed 1,707 lbs, and produced £26 8s. 9d.

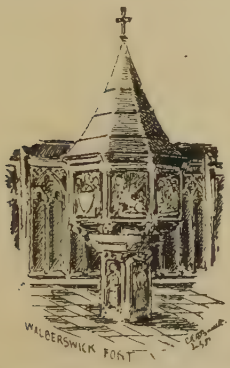
In 1633 a part of the town was burnt—how common these conflagrations appear to have been in this district! Dowsing, who, by the way, exacted a fee of 6s. for himself and 7s. 10d. for his assistants, inflicted a terrible amount of damage. Forty pounds weight of monumental brasses was torn up and sold for 11s. 8d. Windows were of course destroyed, images demolished, and as much wrecking

of works of art performed as possible. Walberswick Church seems to have suffered at this date more severely than most places, so much so that the church by 1695 had become almost a ruin.

On the 29th June in that year the inhabitants forwarded a petition praying that they might be permitted to take down the roof of the church and chancel and the entire north aisle, and also that they might sell three of their four bells. With the proceeds of the materials it was proposed to adapt the south aisle for the purpose of a church. The petition was granted, and the present small building is the result of this adaptation. It is strange to note that the north aisle, which was the newest portion of the structure, was the first to become ruinous. The materials sold for £303 1s. 11d., and the adaptation cost £291 8s. 9d. It appears that there was beneath the chancel a small crypt, but whether it is still in existence the writer has been unable to ascertain. Few there are who will fail to admire the ruined shell of this once fine church,

whether seen close or from the sandy track leading over the common from the railway station. The latter view gives an idea of the extent of the building, and has been for this reason selected for a sketch.

As may be expected, the interior of the present tiny church does not present many features of interest. The font, however, is good, and the carved oak panelling at the west end is not without merit, though, unfortunately, it has been disfigured by vile paint. A curiously carved head is built into the wall of the north-east corner of the church on the outside; this was probably a stone taken from the old building. Upon the north side of the chancel there is a similar small chapel to that at Covehithe Church, with a door of communication leading into the chancel. If there was an external door to the crypt, it was probably upon the south side of the church, where the remains of a low door with steps may still be seen.



That the Reformation should have affected the prosperity of the fisheries may not at first sight be quite obvious, but so it was; and with the abolition of Papal rule we at once find complaints as to a decaying fishing industry. In the reign of Elizabeth the fact was admitted, and we find the Master and Wardens of Trinity House petitioning the Government for "the better observance of Wednesdays as fish days," in order to give an impetus to the trade.

But the chief market of Walberswick was in butter and cheese; and there is a curious ordinance, dated 1609, which enjoins that the old men should employ themselves in the coasting trade with butter, if they had in their youth been fishers; while the young men should diligently attend to fishing craft, as tending to the production of able masters of ships and skilful pilots for the service of the nation. Eight vessels only were licensed for this coasting trade. Here mention may be made of a curious document relative to the

butter and cheese carriers, dated 1583, in which, in order to assist in the maintenance of the church, an agreement is entered into for the payment of a certain due of 2d. for every load of goods carried. The names and marks of the signatories are attached; and of these marks, some twelve in number, are very interesting.

In the middle of the eighteenth century we find Walberswick containing only twenty dwelling-houses and 106 inhabitants, a condition of things which had probably been brought about by the fire of April 14th, 1749, when one-third of the already decayed town was destroyed. This was the fourth conflagration from which the place had suffered, the others having taken place in 1583, 1633, and 1683. With regard to the fire of 1633, it appears to have been the work of incendiaries, as, from documents, the accounts of payments towards the expenses of and the cost of maintaining "prisoners that burnt the town" amount to 43s.

Half-way between Walberswick and Blythburgh is a tract of land known as Bullcamp or Baldcamp. This place was the scene, it is traditionally stated, of a fierce battle between Penda, the king of the Mercians, and Anna (A.D. 654). Penda invaded east Anglia, and marched upon Dunwich. Opposed by Anna and his son Ferminus, both the latter were slain. According to tradition, they were buried at Blythburgh church! and the two tombs there, those of Hopton and Swillington, are sometimes pointed out as their monuments. It is, however, known that though the two warriors were for a time entombed somewhere in Blythburgh, their bodies were subsequently removed elsewhere; and to suggest that even the foundations of the existing monuments in Blythburgh are of Saxon origin is sheer nonsense.

PUBLIC

COLCHESTER CASTLE.

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COLCHESTER.

PROBABLY the earliest mention of Colchester—or, to give it its ancient name, Camulodunum—is to be met with in the writings of Dio Cassius, who there locates the Royal seat of Cunobelin; and Camulodunum included both Colchester and its present suburb Lexden. Conquered by Claudius, A.D. 44, Camulodunum was raised to the dignity of a Colonia, and to the deified Claudius a temple was there erected. It may be here remarked that in the Colchester Museum a large bronzed letter V is now preserved, which has been supposed to have once formed part of an inscription to the Emperor-God above the portal of the temple. Later the Romans, who had become slothful and steeped in luxury, were overwhelmed at Calumodunum by the oppressed Britons, when town and temple were destroyed; the colony in fact, for a time, ceased to exist. But, unwilling to acknowledge defeat, and impatient to avenge themselves, the Romans came back, were victorious, and rebuilt the town. Then probably it was that the walls were erected, A.D. 65, in order to prevent, if possible, a repetition of the former disaster; but it is also asserted by a high authority that they could not have been built until some twelve years

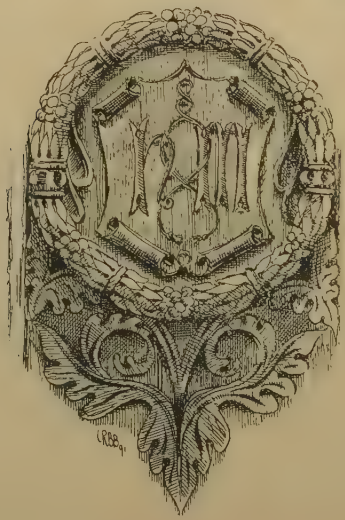
later. At the present day careful examination seems to point to portions of the wall being of undoubted Roman origin, while many repairs have been executed with Roman materials; and it should be remembered that the conquerors taught the conquered to make both Roman brick and Roman tile. The myths of King Coel and his supposed daughter St. Helena yet linger about Colchester in the shape of certain names, but of these personages, if they ever had any real existence, there is no authentic account. The legends are wild, and, upon the face of them, most improbable.

Upon the north side of Colchester the walls are first seen just beyond the present Cattle Market, where the road turns sharply to the right up an ascent known as Balkerne Hill, at the top of which hill once stood a fort called the Balkerne. Near the remains of the fort is a gabled house, built absolutely on the ancient wall. It is a great matter for regret that all the ancient gates of Colchester have now disappeared. Possibly the convenience of passengers is much increased by their removal, but the loss to lovers of antiquity is immense. At intervals peep out among the houses portions of the old walls, which included, when perfect, an area which took the form of a parallelogram, whose longer sides measured about 1,000 yards each, and the shorter ones 500. The gates were four in number, and were known as Head-gate, North-gate, East-gate, and South or St. Botolph's-gate. There were also three posterns: Rye, or River-gate, sometimes called North, or King's Sherde; Schere-gate, or South-postern; and the West-postern, near St. Mary's.

Perhaps the most picturesque distant view of Colchester is

one which can be obtained by turning down a side path to the left on the road to the town from the station. The massive block of the old Castle keep stands amid the trees, the backs and roofs of the houses in the High Street top the hill, and the fine modern spire of the church of St. Nicholas is seen at its best. The foreground, now chiefly occupied by

cottages and factories, must, in the old days, have been the scene of many a fierce fight, and probably just beyond the river, down Dead Man Lane, the fugitive Danes hurried over their stockades to seek a safer refuge on board their galleys. On each side of the road, when once the river is reached, the houses show signs of antiquity; but as far as external decoration goes they are sadly lacking in interest. Half-way up the steep North Hill, however, is an old inn, bearing the sign of "The Marquis of Granby," and here, in a ground-floor room, now used partly as a passage and partly as a cellar, is a most remarkable carved beam—a beam which, all things considered, could not be easily matched. Of the carving here the sketches will give some little idea. The main beam has in its centre the initials H. M., and either a Merchant's Mark or a Knot Badge, surrounded by



a wreath. The whole of the rest of the beam is occupied by a beautiful floral pattern which extends to the walls, where brackets or trusses carved with the grotesque figures sketched support its ends. These figures are specially valuable from the extreme care with which the details of the costume have been wrought. Another beam in a portion of the room now partitioned off is of good design, the foliated bands which bind its flutings being not a little elegant. At the end of a passage which leads from the street to the inn-yard, in the right-hand corner of the archway, is to be found the quaint carved oak head illustrated. It is good of its kind, and of a by no means common type. The writer was gravely informed that "this was the house of Henry III.," on the authority of somebody who had thus read the initials carved in the centre of the beam —an instance of how myths may arise. In the passage beneath the beam, it ought also to be mentioned, there are one or two panels of extremely interesting decorated linen pattern. A little higher up the hill, on the opposite side of the road, in the back garden of No. 47, are three carved grotesque window-brackets, dated 1655. A fourth exists, but it is hidden by some recent additions to the house. At the top of the hill stands St. Peter's Church,

with its red-brick tower. This has an interesting little crypt, and a few brasses of sixteenth and seventeenth century date; also a monument to the Colchester martyrs, who suffered during the Marian Persecution.

The High Street of Colchester is a very fine one, wider by far than most main streets of provincial towns; and from one point of view—that of the antiquary—it is much to be deplored that it has been so modernized. The quaint little church of St. Rumbald, which once blocked it, has been demolished; the ancient and historic Moot Hall has shared the same fate, the alleged reason being "convenience"; and, in fact, for a considerable distance down there is no building of venerable appearance externally, except the Red Lion Hotel. Here, there is, however, some very fair carving; but the original work and "restored" details are somewhat mixed. Still, the front of this old hostelry is by no means lacking in interest, and the beams in the entrance gateway are fairly good. Upon these premises, years ago, a Roman tessellated pavement was discovered, and a fragment of it is still preserved with proper care therein. On the opposite side of the road down the Foundry Yard will be found the remains of some pargework on the wall of a house which stands back on the right-hand side. The present Angel Hotel is most interesting, though, from its modern front, antiquity there would not be suspected. It is composed of two houses, originally separated by a narrow passage, which is now roofed over with glass. The house on one side has three good brackets, the middle one of which is uncommon. The opposite house has yet its old gallery remaining (six bays), from which doors lead into the first floor rooms. Through the glass roof

the three old gables with moulded barge-boards can be seen.

On October 20th, 1892, a fine park was opened in Colchester by Sir David Evans, K.C.M.G., Lord Mayor of London. The extent of the park exceeds seventeen acres, and has the advantage of containing the ruins of the Castle within its limits. From the high ground on which the Castle stands, the park slopes down to the river in the valley beneath, being traversed by a public path, edged on one side by fragments of the old Roman wall of the town. In the park a piece of Roman tessellated pavement, which was discovered while laying out the grounds, is carefully protected by a glass roof. The stone marking the spot where Lucas and Lisle were shot has now been covered by an obelisk, the gift of H. Laver, Esq., J. P., the base being so contrived that the old stone should not be removed. Park gates were presented by Wilson Marriage, Esq., J.P., Mayor and Portreeve of Colchester, in 1892, and by Captain Naylor Leyland, M.P. for the Borough. The Mayor also presented the sundial which stands in front of the entrance to the Castle. Near the memorial to Lucas and Lisle, a path fringed with young trees is known as the Mayor's Walk.

At the end of the High Street, by a narrow lane to the left, the Castle is reached, the entrance to which has been selected for a sketch. Here it should be remarked that the domed top of the tower is of comparatively modern date.

Colchester Castle was a Royal possession, and was erected at an early date after the Norman Conquest. It is neither a Saxon nor a Roman building, though, no doubt, it occupies the site of Roman buildings, in common with

nearly every other house in the town, for it is hardly possible to excavate anywhere in Colchester without coming across fragments of Roman work. The Castle was in existence in 1091, when it was granted to Eudo Dapifer by William Rufus. The area of its ground plan is considerably in excess of that of the White Tower of London, and, in common with the latter, Colchester possesses, at its south-east corner, a semi-circular projection, forming the apse of the crypt, falsely called the chapel. In the White Tower, as all know, the Chapel of St. John—that perfect specimen of early Norman work—has beneath it a crypt, beneath which again is a sub-crypt—the apartment leading out of the torture-chamber, *via* "Little Ease." Now, in Colchester the crypt and sub-crypt are in existence, but the chapel has disappeared, The general plan of the internal arrangements of a Norman keep are well ascertained, and yet with this knowledge, and in defiance of all common sense, people have been eager to curtail Colchester Castle by at least one story, and to render it therefore a place which, if inhabited by the Castellan and his family, could not have accommodated a sufficient guard; or, if the guard was quartered duly, the Castellan must have found other lodgings. As with the White Tower, so with Colchester, the stairway is situated at the south-west angle of the building, and a grand newel it is, fully sixteen feet in width—the widest newel in the kingdom, its central pillar measuring two feet in diameter.

The arched doorway by which the keep is entered claims some attention. It appears to have been cut through the wall after the keep itself was built, and must in that case have needed a flight of steps to lead up to it, as its level would certainly have been above that of the ground line.

The mouldings of the arch are plain and bold. There are traces of the existence of two pairs of gates and the portcullis groove, all confined within the comparatively small space of twelve to thirteen feet, the thickness of the wall at this point. Relics of a warder's seat, in the shape of a niche, are yet to be seen, and hereabouts the wall bears a few mutilated

carvings and an inscription. In one corner of the now open court—a court which was formerly the basement of the keep, and divided by a partition wall now destroyed—is the

small arched door leading to the dungeon, from which Sir George Lisle and Sir Charles Lucas passed to be shot outside the outer northern wall of the keep. Of these loyal gentlemen further mention will be made hereafter.

But, it may be asked, how did Colchester Castle come to such a condition of ruin, seeing that it must when in its prime have been the mightiest Norman castle in the kingdom? It is sad to relate that an historic building, which had been taken and retaken in the time of King John, and which had been spared by the Roundhead cannon in the days of the memorable siege, was at length sold to a speculator, one Wheely, who endeavoured to make money out of the materials, demolishing all that he possibly could, cutting passages through the walls of the ancient pile, trafficking in the stones of the windows and Roman tile of the walls; but, eventually, thanks to the hardness of the Norman cement, losing money over his scandalous venture, he was glad to sell the mutilated relics to one who knew how to preserve them reverently. Still, it must be remembered that Norman castles were built in an age which knew not gunpowder, and that as a defensive building Colchester Castle was useless, else it would have suffered, perhaps, worse treatment from the cannon of Fairfax than from the picks and crowbars of the mercenary Wheely. With the contents of the Museum, which now occupies the first crypt of the Castle Chapel, one has here nothing to do. To write on this subject would need a volume to itself. Suffice it to say that though there are many and most valuable Roman curios therein contained, yet these are but a tithe of the rich harvest furnished by the ground in Colchester. Some objects are unique, notably the "Colchester Sphinx" and

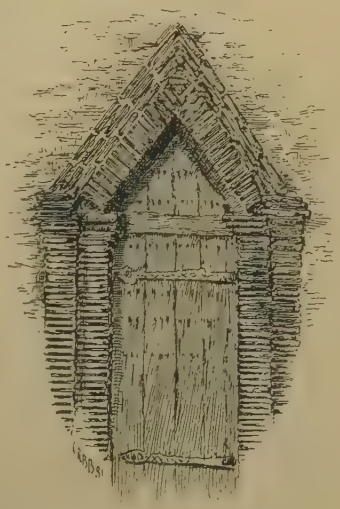
the huge "Colchester Urn"; but it is to be regretted that more of the local "finds" do not come into the possession of the Corporation and the Essex Archæological Society, whose joint property this most interesting Museum is.

When Eudo was gathered to his fathers he left an only daughter, Margaret, who was married to William de Magnaville, the Constable of the Tower of London. Now, it would have been bad policy upon the part of Henry I. to have committed the Castle of Colchester also into the keeping of this already powerful feudatory; and the wise King conferred the office upon Hamo de St. Clare—who continued to hold it during part of the reign of Stephen. The Empress endeavoured to bestow it upon Aubrey de Vere, Earl of Oxford, but this gave one of the Magnavilles an opportunity. He was son-in-law of Vere and grandson of Eudo, and claimed the office of Constable as by right, in reality demanding it as the price of his allegiance. His intrigues with both sides are to be read in the pages of history. Subsequently the heritage of the St. Clares was divided, and the keepership of the Castle alone remained to them; passing afterwards to an only daughter and heiress, who had married William de Lanvalei, in whose family it remained for three generations. During the reign of John, whilst the Constable was absent with the Barons, the King obtained possession of the castle, which he confided to a foreigner, one Stephen Harengoot, who prepared for a siege. John, however, was forced to give way to the popular party; Magna Charta was signed, and Harengoot was ordered to surrender the Castle, and complied. Next, a French garrison is found within the walls, prepared to hold the strong place against the Royal party, who, having taken Rochester, were

hastily marching to reduce Colchester. The army, under the command of Savaric de Mauleon, sat down before the place, and afterwards John in person arrived to expedite the siege. Colchester capitulated, owing to the treachery of the French knights, who literally sold their English comrades. To his delight Stephen de Harengoot was again placed in charge, the King departing to besiege and take Hedingham Castle. The condition of the town was then an unenviable one, as it was liable to oppression from the Castle, and likewise open to be plundered by the popular party. In the year 1216 the Castle was surrendered to the Dauphin Lewis, and was, in fact, the last stronghold which did surrender to him. In the following year, after the treaty of Lambeth, William, Bishop of London, was appointed Constable, and upon his translation to another See, his successor, Eustace, became likewise, for a short time, Constable of Colchester, to be followed by the great Hubert de Burgh. After De Burgh came Stephen de Segrave, and from that time the old Castle seems to have lost its importance in a measure, being for the future a prison for felons, and under the control of the Sheriff of Essex. Its political status had departed, and it was only as a valuable property that its keepership was henceforward the object of intrigue. The list of the various holders of the office is too long here to transcribe. How its walls contained the wretched sufferers for conscience' sake in the days of Queen Mary, and how some of these even suffered in the Castle Bailey itself, may be read at length in the "Book of Martyrs." The cell where James Parnell, the Quaker, was confined, and where he ultimately died, starved and in misery, may yet be seen. His piteous story has been so often told that it would be superfluous

here to repeat it; it is but another page in the sad tale of fanaticism. But it is strange to note that, despite the fact that Protestant, Sectarian Colchester warmly espoused the cause of Queen Mary during the nine days' "reign" of Jane Dudley, and that, shortly after her accession, the Queen in triumph visited the town, yet no district suffered more in proportion from religious persecution than this loyal Essex. And without doubt to this maddening persecution, aided by the fanatic spiritual influence of the refugees in later times from Holland, is to be ascribed the fact that the Royal cause in the times of the Great Rebellion was, as far as this country is concerned, a lost one from the very beginning of the struggle.

To this day the evidences of the siege are manifest in the town. They meet the eye on all sides; some of the churches are even yet partially in ruins. The grand old priory Church of St. Botolph is a complete wreck, and of the mansion which was built out of the materials of St. John's Abbey not one trace is left. Here it may be well to make some allusion to the ecclesiastical antiquities in Colchester which are at the present time most noteworthy. Considering the number of the churches within the walls and immediately without them,



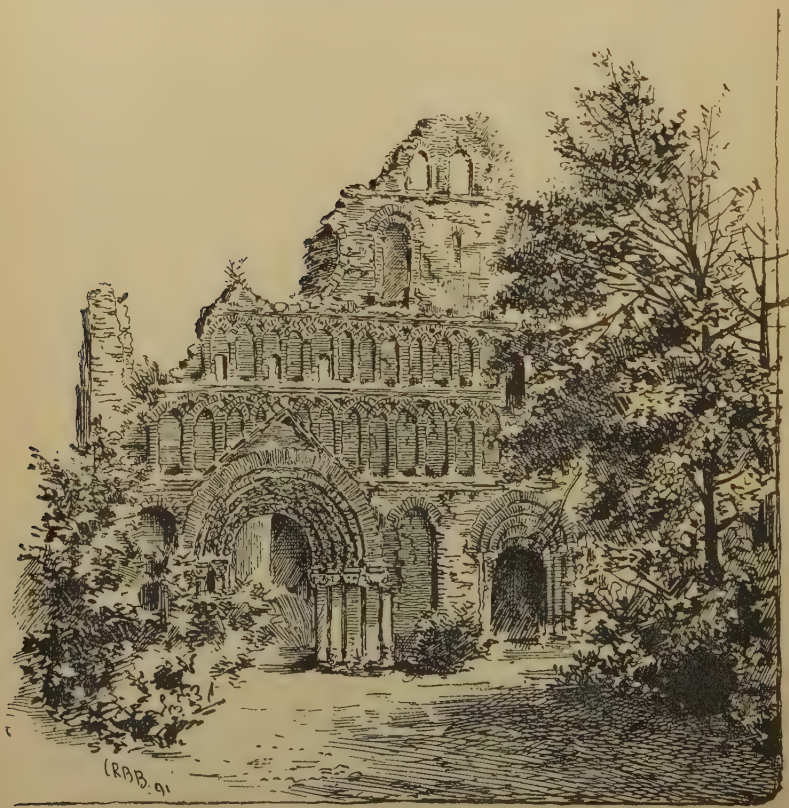
the points particularly to be mentioned are not many. Of the churches, that of the Holy Trinity is perhaps the most interesting, for the western door is certainly remarkable. It is built, as will be seen by the sketch, of Roman tile, and in lieu of a curved arch it has a triangular head. The general opinion inclines to assign a Saxon date to this door, and it would appear to be a reasonable conclusion. The whole of the building is interesting, and to those who enjoy old ecclesiastical buildings, a careful study of the interior will be productive of not a little pleasure. Among the church furniture is an ancient mazer, to which the date of Richard II. has been allotted, but it is not easy to see upon what grounds.

RUINED TOWER, ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH.

The other church is dedicated to St. Martin, and is still very interesting, despite a recent restoration. The curious wooden arch within the chancel, which supports a "king-post," is most noteworthy, and the chancel ceiling is remarkably fine. The exterior also of this quaint little church, especially the north porch, may well be studied, the ruined tower being even now as the siege left it. It may also be noted that the stone altar-slab has its crosses duly incised. I hear that during the restoration another broken altar-slab was also found. Leaden bullets, dating from parliamentarian days, are to be seen here imbedded in the ancient font.

It is not easy to gaze upon the ruins of St. Botolph's Priory in Colchester without a mixed feeling of astonishment and sorrow—astonishment at the marvellous architectural effect produced by the builder with only the roughest of materials, and sorrow that such a monument should so have suffered at the hands of man. Built entirely, or almost entirely, of Roman tile, the west front is grand, even in this its hour of dire decay, and the arcade of interlacing circular arches presents this peculiarity, viz., that at the intersections pointed arches are formed—a great rarity this in Norman work. The massive western doorway is yet in a tolerable state of preservation, and shows its bold zigzag mouldings of rubbed brick. It is deeply recessed, as may be seen from the sketch. Above the arcade is the fragment of what was no doubt once a fine rose-window. How is it that modern rose-windows are ever failures, while those of antiquity were ever things of beauty? Above this window, again, on the south side, is a small fragment of an arcade which shows that the decoration above and below was similar. Of the two towers which flanked the western gable no trace is now

left. Passing into the space which once was the nave of this grand old church, the desolation of the spot becomes even more apparent; but its very desolation and sadness adds to the picturesqueness of the scene. Outside the ruins, one stands in a well-kept public garden. Inside, one finds a deserted and neglected graveyard. Amid the rows of massive tile and rubble columns stand comparatively



modern tombs, some of which are in a condition needing attention. Care has been taken to preserve as far as may be the columns and arches of both nave and aisles of the Priory Church. Perhaps the most picturesque view of the interior is that which is obtained from the lowered floor of the north aisle. But to see the place to perfection, it is needful to stroll thither either at sunset or when the moon is at full height; it is then a scene not easily to be forgotten.

The history of St. Botolph's is as follows. In the year 1109 the monastery was founded under the Augustinian rule by a monk named Ernulph, who eventually became the first prior. It was dedicated to St. Botolph and St. Julian, and appears to have been the first Augustinian priory founded in England, for which reason by Papal Bull it took precedence of all other houses of that rule. It was ever a poor foundation, for Ernulph had nothing with which to endow it, and donations do not appear to have come in generously, so that even at the Dissolution its revenues were comparatively small. They were granted by the King to Lord Chancellor Audley, and no doubt assisted to still further expand the pouch already well stuffed with Church plunder.

In the parish of St. Giles stands the fine gateway, the sole relic of the once noble Abbey of Colchester. This Abbey, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, was founded by Eudo de Rie (Dapifer) upon the site of the small hermitage of Siric, where also stood a little church dedicated to the Baptist, The spot was a hallowed one, and wonders were frequently worked there—so tradition tells. St. John's Abbey was not, however, founded without considerable difficulty, as for

a time Eudo lay under the cloud of Royal displeasure, and was unable to find funds for the endowment. Quarrels also occurred among the few monks from Rochester who were the first denizens of this new Benedictine House. The original monks, four in number, were sent back to Rochester and a new colony of thirteen were imported from York. The nephew of Eudo, one William, a priest, now entered into the scheme with considerable zeal, sparing neither time nor money, and the new Abbey then began to rise apace. It appears that at the date of the Consecration of the Abbey Church the number of monks was twenty, and as far as can be ascertained this number was hardly ever increased.

The present gateway is of late date, and is built of stone

and dressed flint; the panels and niches which ornament its front are very handsome. The groining of the gateway itself is fine, though it has been somewhat damaged—tradition states by a shell during the siege, but more probably by a round shot. Upon one side of the gate is a porter's lodge, and upon the other there appears to be a fireplace. (A similar example of a fireplace exists in the gateway of the Clugniac Priory of Montacute, in Somersetshire.) St. John's Gateway belongs to the Government, and has been restored. According to old prints, it would seem to have had a flat-hipped roof, and to have lost its crenellations in the earlier years of the present century, but otherwise it does not appear to be much changed.

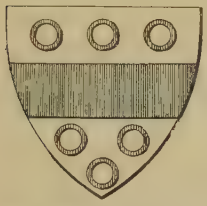
The Abbey, at the Dissolution, was granted by lease to Sir Thomas d'Arcy, and seems quickly to have gone to ruin. Purchased by one of the Lucas family, the stones were used to build a mansion—a mansion which was sacked, burned, and destroyed during the siege. An old print is extant which shows the south prospect of the Abbey church, and from which all that can probably ever be known of this fine old building must be derived. To all appearance the church was cruciform, with narrow, low aisles. Its central tower was crenellated, and had four small circular corner turrets, besides a circular central one. All the turrets were surmounted by stumpy, extinguisher-shaped spires. At the west end, at the south corner, stood a circular flanking tower, and on the extremity of the western gable a small hexagonal bell-turret appears. From the print, the windows, which are small, seem to be chiefly lancets, and four of these are shown at the east end, above which, again, are two small ones, the point of the gable being occupied by a

quatrefoil. The absolute site of the church is unknown now, but it is believed to have stood somewhat to the south-east of the gateway.

The last Abbot of Colchester was John Beche, and he was one of the three mitred Abbots who refused either to surrender the Abbey or to acknowledge the King's supremacy in matters spiritual. He was of course right from his point of view, but repaid the penalty for his daring with his life, being hanged for high treason at Colchester, in 1539, his fellow mitred Abbots, those of Reading and Glastonbury, sharing the same fate. An ordinary Abbot was by no means an unimportant personage, but a mitred Abbot was a very great man indeed: for of these there were but twenty-eight in the whole kingdom. The sad fate of the Abbots of Reading and Glastonbury was deplored in the localities over which they ruled, but with John Beche this does not seem to have been the case, as he appears to have been locally unpopular. But the underhand and cold-blooded way in which, according to tradition, he was seized and executed, does not, if correct, reflect credit upon the honourable feelings of the townsfolk. To invite a great man, even if he is a religous foe, to a feast, and forthwith arrest and summarily hang him, may show loyalty to a king's order, and possibly might be held excusable by some upon the score of Protestant zeal, but on the grounds of common morality such an act must needs be for ever reprehended.

Near the Abbey-gate stands the small and tumble-down church of St. Giles—memorable only as being the burial-place of the luckless, though gallant, knights Sir Charles Lucas and Sir George Lisle. They lie beneath a slab upon which is deeply graven the following inscription: "Under

this marble ly the bodies of the two most valiant captains, Sr Charles Lucas and Sr George Lisle, Knights, who, for their eminent loyalty to their Soverain, were on the 28th day of Avgvst, 1648, by the command of Sr Thomas Fairfax, then General of the Parliament army, in cold blood barbarovsly murdered."



Not far from St. Giles' Church, at the corner of Shere-gate and St. John's Street, stand a group of old houses, one of which has a well-carved corner-post decorated with a floriated pattern. A few doors beyond is a finely-carved beam. Parallel to St. John's Street runs a short lane, now known as Sir Isaac Rebow's Walk, which leads into Eld Lane.

Sir Isaac Rebow, a Colchester worthy of past days, whose coat armour is here given, was the son of John Rebow, a refugee from the of Netherlands who settled in Colchester and pursued the calling of a bay and say manufacturer, in which he prospered exceedingly. Isaac, the son, was the host of King William III., in both 1693 and 1700, and was knighted. He served as the borough Member during the greater part of two reigns, and in the first Parliament of George I., and was also the Recorder and High Steward. At this period the family house was in Head Street, which runs at right angles to Sir

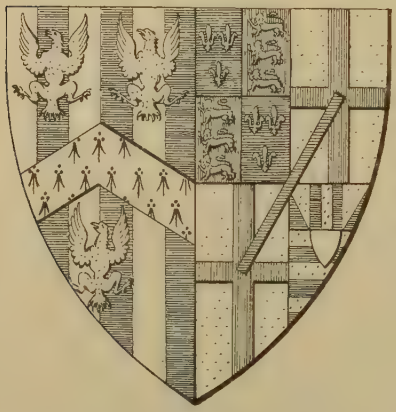
Isaac's Walk. It appears that the Knight went to the expense of having it "gravell'd and made handsome," at least so says Morant, and hence probably the name originated. A monument to John Rebow, the father, is in the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, commonly called St Mary's at the Wall; but it seems to to have been erected some years after his death. Of this church only the lower part of the tower remains. The town wall stands but a few feet from the west end, and

when seen from the street beneath the building is decidedly picturesque, despite the modern brick top to the tower.

In so old a town as Colchester it is rather remarkable, when its size is considered, that picturesque old houses should be so comparatively scarce. Isolated specimens exist in plenty, but with the exception of the lower end of North Stockwell Street, there is hardly another place where the "old world" air predominates in the dwellings.

Of far greater antiquity in Colchester than the Rebow family was that of Jobson. As far back as the year 1462 a Thomas Jobson migrated to Essex from Heslington in Northumberland. He appears to have filled various municipal offices between the years 1476 and 1499. His son William was alderman and bailiff of the borough Next came a Francis Jobson, who was knighted, and married Elizabeth Plantagenet, the third daughter and co-heir of Arthur Viscount Lisle. Now, Lord Lisle was the natural son of Edward IV. by Jane Shore, and hence the Jobsons impaled her coat armour, as the drawing shows.

Sir Francis prospered greatly, and eventually became Lieutenant of the Tower, and a member of the Court of Augmentation at the suppression of the monasteries, from the spoils of which he waxed indeed wealthy. Sir Francis died at Monkwike, West Doniland, Essex, on June 11th, 1573, and was buried in the church of St. Giles, Colchester.



Another Colchester, or rather Essex man needs brief notice—viz., Sir Harbottle Grimston, Judge and Speaker of the House of Commons. His father, the first baronet, a Puritan gentleman of old family and moderate estate in Essex, was Member for that county in 1625-1627, and appears to have been imprisoned for refusing to contribute to a forced loan. Sir Harbottle was born in 1602, near Manningtree, and was educated at Emanuel College, Cambridge. In 1629, having married, and engaged himself in the study of the law, he entered Parliament as M.P. for Harwich. Shortly afterwards he became Recorder of that town in succession to Coke. Next he was chosen Recorder of Colchester, and was its Member in the Parliament of 1640, and also in the Long Parliament. He was on the popular

side in politics, and took a prominent part against Laud. He seems to have ever acted as an honest partisan in matters political during the stormy times of the Great Rebellion. After the abdication of Richard Cromwell the Protector, Grimston sat on the Committee for summoning a new Parliament, and was elected Speaker of the Convention Parliament. At the Restoration his speech of welcome to Charles was notorious for the fulsome servility of its sentiments. He sat on the Commission appointed to try the regicides, and was shortly after created Master of the Rolls, a post which, it is said, he obtained through bribery. He died in January, 1684, and is believed to have been buried near St. Albans.

LEXDEN.

Lexden, the largest of the extra-mural parishes comprised within the borough of Colchester, is an extremely pretty place, and is one which it may be hoped will long preserve its charming rural appearance. The church has unfortunately been entirely rebuilt during the present century, and the edifice now presents an appearance the reverse of architecturally beautiful. Within it there is a fine old brass alms-basin, almost exactly similar to the one in Wareham Church, Dorset. This dish is decorated in *repoussé* work, with the scriptural subject of the spies and the huge bunch of grapes. Higher up the hill the village street is very

picturesque, the houses, all of different shapes and sizes, with their banked-up gardens and long flights of steps, are a pleasing contrast to the streets of the town. Formerly, there were three celebrated crosses in Lexden: one stood at the cross roads, and was known as Lamb's Cross; a second, built of brick and stone, was erected on the top of Lexden Hill; while the third was on the fringe of Lexden Heath. But all three have now vanished, and it is by tradition alone that their sites are handed down.

Upon Lexden Heath are the relics of ancient entrenchments, now known as the "Ramparts." Here it was that Fairfax pitched his camp, at the time of the siege, and it is

stated that his residence was Lexden Lodge, quite a small farm now, but still surrounded by a perfect moat. On the road between Lexden and the ramparts are many pretty spots; trees and water abound, and the path winds down a

hill till, at a turn, the farm, known as Malting Farm, comes in view. Here there is a rather remarkable granary of a type now becoming exceedingly rare. The arrangement of sloping plaster between the short upright timbers of the sides is specially to be noticed.

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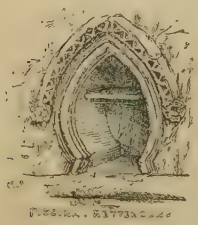
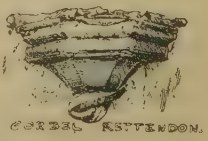
certain Sir Thomas Lathom, Kt., of Lathom and Knowesley, in Lancashire, was in his infancy carried off by an eagle, being recovered from its nest unhurt and apparently well cared for. The Knight had an only child, Isabel, who married Sir John Stanley, K.G., and her husband, with her estates, adopted the Lathom arms and crest. It should be added that the oak tree with acorns has nothing to do with the crest, the blazon being, on a chapeau gules, turned up with ermine, an eagle's wings extended or, preying on an infant in its cradle p.p.r. swaddled gules, the cradle laced gold. In the "poppy head" at Rettendon the eagle has been lost, its feet only remaining, and the conventional oak tree is used instead of a chapeau. Now, the Stanleys cannot be traced as having ever been connected with the parish; hence the presence of this poppy head is somewhat unaccountable, unless it came thus. It appears that Alice, the daughter of William Tyrell, of Rawreth, the next parish, had for her first husband Thomas Latham, of Lancashire. The remainder of the series comprises the "bear and ragged staff," two dogs, a lion, a bear and a dog reguardant, and there is also a very remarkable ape with a most comical grin on its face. On the south wall of the chancel is some panelling which forms a back to

STALL, RETTENDON.

the stalls; it consists of fairly executed tracery, in the upper compartment of each panel some device occurring such as fleur-de-lys, a pomegranate, a quartrefoil, &c. Just in the rear of the "three decker" a portion of a "miserere" will be found converted to other uses. Old tiles, some of which have fleur-de-lys centres, have been utilized to pave the chancel. The sedilia, which have trefoil heads, are small, but the piscina is probably the most remarkable in the county, even that at Great Bardfield not being excepted. Its arch is pointed, but the lower ends of the arch bend inwards till the opening is quite narrow, and then bends sharply outwards. The sides of this queer arch are well moulded, and a label of dog-tooth moulding terminating in roses completes the design. Upon the same wall of the chancel there is an isolated corbel which closely resembles one at Wethersfield, in Essex. It is, however, of superior design and greater antiquity, the clever way in which the stone knot pendant is tied being highly artistic. Above it is a brass to Margaret Hayes, 1552. In the floor on the other side of the chancel there is a large grey marble slab, the edge of which is adorned with a singular running pattern. Evidently this slab once formed the table of an altar tomb, and it is much to be regretted that the sides are no longer forthcoming, for if decorated at all to correspond with the edge of the slab, the tomb must have been singularly uncommon in treatment. There is





also a brass to a man, his two wives, and seven children, of which the inscription is lost. Of the huge marble monument at the east end of the north aisle I need say nothing here, save that it is the memorial of a certain Edmund Humphry, who died in 1727, the last of his race.

Descending Rettendon Hill I cross the river in the valley, passing the quaint old mill there, now bright in the afternoon sun, and make my way towards Rayleigh. The church tower, mill, castle mound, and village extended along the hill crest in the distance. The walk is not very interesting, and with the exception of a curious tumble-down old weather-boarded farmhouse, with fine chimneys, and now divided into cottages standing within a large and perfect moat upon the right-hand side of the road, there is nothing for which to delay my walk. Somehow a moat always fascinates me, and I find myself wandering round this one and wondering what this evidently old manor house looked like before its day of ruin. Level with the ground are all its out-buildings, for now rafters, broken tiles, and splinters of wood in admired confusion mark the place where the barn and granary once stood. But what gardens these old moated enclosures make! Everything seems to grow therein most luxuriously.

This spot is in Rawreth, which parish adjoins Rettendon at Battlesbridge. While hunting for information in the State Papers, I found a document dated from Rawreth, which, as it bears upon the persecutions of Thomas Hooker the Nonconformist, may be properly mentioned. Under date November 3, 1629, Dr. John Browning writes from Rawreth to Bishop Laud, at his house near St. Paul's Church. Mr. Hooker, he says, who was lately in question before the

Bishop, still continues his former practices. Dr. Browning begs the help of the Bishop's authority, if not to the suppressing and rooting out of such a one, at least to the defending of those who live in obedience. The "renowned" Bishop of Winchester (Andrewes) stated to the writer that "one Mr. Hooker" was silenced in his diocese on the complaint of King James, and he begs Bishop Laud to consider whether this be the same man or no. The people in this district of Essex, he continues, it is thought being over much addicted to "hearing the word" as "they call it," to the neglect of God's services and worship, will feel great heart-burnings arise against the suppressors of this man and his lecture. Dr. Browning finally offers his service for quieting the people on Hooker's removal. From Rawreth to Rayleigh I quickly pass, and soon the old castle mound and embankment begins to take far more definite shape.

Rayleigh is a small town upon the top of a hill, and consists of one long wide street, at the east end of which stands the church. The church is not interesting as a building, though it has a fair south porch, of which the ornamented Tudor parapet is quite lost beneath a thick coating of ivy. Within, the chancel aisles are separated from the nave by timber arches of which the curiosity and comparative rarity is the sole charm. There is an altar tomb which seems of fourteenth century date in the south chapel, and one brass still remains in the church, but the names of the persons there buried are in both cases unknown. Rayleigh (I shall not enumerate the eight or nine different ways of spelling the name of this place) was a place of great importance in the days, it is said, of Suene,

being in fact his stronghold, and to the remains of this stronghold, merely earthworks, the name of Rayleigh Castle is applied. These earthworks consist of a central mound (the base of which is elliptical), surrounded by a ditch and a rampart which are enclosed by a second ditch. The ramparts have suffered not a little as it is, and passages have been pierced through them. Whether in ancient days these formidable banks were fortified by masonry or merely by timber stockade does not now appear on the surface, nor would any good purpose be served by excavation. Certain it is that in Rayleigh itself no tradition

has been handed down of the date (if any) of the demolition of its castle. The place has neither history nor legend, except, of course, the usual story of a subterranean passage leading to some impossible place.

From Rayleigh to Rochford there is little of interest; I might have deviated slightly from my path to visit the scene of the battle of Assundun, but refrained. The church at Ashingdon no longer contains the miraculous image for which it was once so celebrated that crowds daily visited the shrine, crawling up the hill upon their knees.

The powers of the saint were specially exercised in favour of barren women, and it is curious to note that ages after the image had disappeared it was considered lucky to get married at Ashingdon Church. As far as can be ascertained, a rector of the parish, by name David, who had been presented to the living by Sir William de Coggeshall, son-in-law of Sir John Hawkwood, first discovered the virtues of this image. Making the fact known, not a little wealth accrued to him from the offerings of the faithful, so much so that the fees of the neighbouring clergy fell off considerably. Complaint was therefore made to the Bishop of London, Robert de Braybroke, who in 1401 granted a commission to the "official of the Archdeacon of Essex, and to the Vicar of Prittlewell, to go to this church and search into the form and quality of this image," &c. But their report upon this weighty and important expedition is not forthcoming.

Rochford as a town cannot boast of any architectural points of interest in its straggling street and irregular market square. To find, indeed, anything picturesque or historically interesting, it will be needful to walk out beyond the railway, where stands the curious church, with the remains of the historic Rochford Hall close beside it. I must not omit to mention the odd custom which for many generations prevailed in the place, and which even survived its removal here from the neighbouring parish of Rayleigh some 240 years ago. I allude to the "Lawless Court." According to tradition, the custom arose from a conspiracy against the Lord of the Manor which was detected, he himself overhearing the plotters while on his way homewards. As a punishment or perhaps as a reminder, he

ordered that all tenants on his manor should assemble at the same spot upon the same night and there do homage for their tenancies. But it is strange to find that formerly there were two Lawless Courts, the Great and the Little, the separate existence of the latter being, it would seem, merged in that of the former.

The Little Lawless Court was held on Rope Monday in Hock or Hoke-tide, a season of the year when many curious customs municipal and otherwise were formerly kept up, the Hock-tide procession with the tenure horn at

Hungerford being, I am glad to say, still observed. The Great Lawless Court was formerly held at King's Hill, in Rayleigh, but by command of the second Earl of Warwick (Rich), "who would have it so," the scene of the meeting was transferred to Rochford. Here a field has been named King's Hill, and a post has been erected which is a copy of the original post. My sketch shows the site of Rochford Lawless Court.

The Great Lawless Court held its meeting at cockcrow

upon the Wednesday morning next after Michaelmas Day. To the post, after a supper, the tenants and steward went without lanthorns, but accompanied by a torch-bearer. The tenants were called over and answered to their names in a whisper, paying whatever they had to pay in silence. In lieu of pen and ink a coal was used for the purpose of writing. It would appear that the title Lawless arose either from the unlawful hour at which the meeting was held, or from the beginning of the Court Roll, which ran as follows:—

> "Curia de Domino Rege
> Dicta sine Lege
> Tenta est ibidem
> Per ejusdem consuetudinem," &c.

When the custom was last observed there were fourteen lands that paid quit rents to the Lord of the Manor, twelve of these being manors, but I have been given to understand that for two or three years the custom has been allowed to fall into desuetude. In modern times a good deal of cock-crowing and lanthorn-carrying was introduced into the procession, which was contrary to the original spirit of the court, and the whole ceremony partook rather of the nature of a joke; but there is no doubt that in its original intention the Lawless Court was seriously meant, and, indeed, the heavy fines imposed on absent tenants sufficiently prove this. It has been supposed that the Lawless Court was unique. This cannot be said, as a similar court existed at Epping, known as the manor of Epping Presbyter, and it was held beneath a maple tree between Eppingbury and the Church. Camden says that a similar custom obtained at Placentia, in Italy; there are, moreover, traces of several

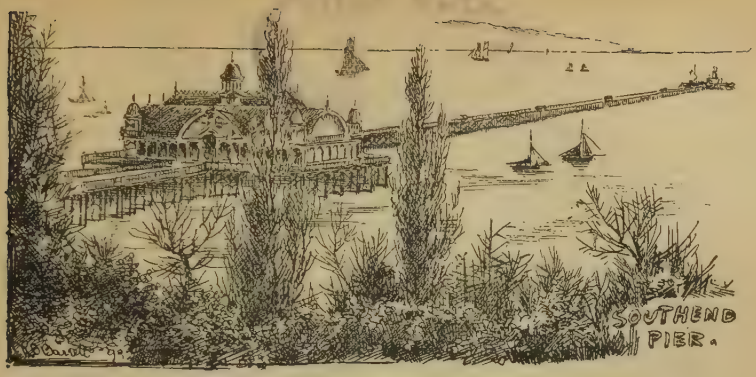
other now disused open-air courts in various parts of the world.

Rochford Church, which is dedicated to St. Andrew, has a fine brick tower, which dates from the reign of Henry VII., and which was probably built by Thomas Boteler, Earl of Ormond. Tradition has ascribed this tower to Lord Rich, but the arms of Boteler are carved in stone above the west door. The church inside cannot be said to be at all striking, and there is, in fact, but little to interest one either in carving, brasses, tombs, or glass. One doorway, leading into the vestry or sacristy, is rather handsome, and there are the relics of a squint or hagioscope. The sacristy itself is a strange building when seen from without, being double roofed, and with two projecting gable ends at right angles to the chancel. It bears the same date as the tower, and, though curious, is certainly not to be held up as a model of ecclesiastical style. A very long and interesting list of the heraldic glass formerly in Rochford Church is in existence, but one may look in vain now for even a fragment thereof; not one scutcheon remains out of more than forty —only a few years since the last was lost! Perhaps the best view of the church of Rochford is to be obtained from the railway station platform, for there the few fine old trees which yet remain just without the graveyard are seen to advantage, and form a fitting setting for the irregularly shaped church. By the way, it is curious to note that in the old days Rochford Church was much used for the purpose of storing smuggled goods. The tower was a favourite place of concealment, but a certain secret hollow beneath the pulpit was known only to the few, and used for specially valuable portions of the cargo.

Rochford Hall, which stands close by the west end of the church, is an interesting but still a disappointing place. One cannot help being interested in a place which has so many associations with the county magnates of bygone days, nor indeed is an attempt to try and puzzle out the original size and shape of this wrecked mansion destitute of all delight, albeit that the task is a vain one, to such an extent have fire, decay, and demolition played havoc with Rochford Hall. Authorities differ as to the date when the

place was built, but I think it may be fairly considered to be a Boteler manor house, to which some additions were made by the Bullens in the reign of Henry VIII., and which was finally turned into a huge palace by Lord Riche, who died there in the year 1566. In the days of the Botelers there are traditions of a great fire, caused, it is said, by an accident to the hangings of the chapel altar. Rather more than a century and a quarter ago

SEE "Historical Notes" Page 43.



EASTERN COUNTIES.

SOUTHEND.

SOUTHEND, the youngest of the Essex boroughs, is in its present state quite a modern town. Originally it formed a hamlet of the neighbouring parish of Prittlewell. The capacities of the place as a seaside health resort seem to have first come into notice in 1804, when it was visited by Queen Caroline and the Princess Charlotte. But the Southend of those days was a different place from the Southend of these, and practically consisted of the Royal Terrace, together with a few scattered houses, and a cluster of fishers' huts on the eastern side of the present pier. Since that time the place has grown with immense rapidity. Money has been lavishly spent in the laying out of roads, walks, and streets. Public buildings have risen, private houses have multiplied, and lastly, at the cost of £70,000, the mile and a quarter of pier replaced an older but by no means ancient structure. The town is healthy, its immediate surroundings are picturesque, and there are, moreover, in the neighbourhood many spots worth visiting, some, indeed, of singular historic interest. It is a brief

notice of the chief of these interesting spots that I purpose to give. Of Southend itself, from the nature of things, there is not much to be said. Its pier is as other piers, only more so. Still, when viewed from above the "Shrubbery"—a pleasant garden laid out in terraces on the steep cliff side—the lengthy pier is not unpicturesque, stretching out as it does into the distance towards Sheerness. By day the outline of the Kentish shore is clearly to be seen; by night, in the darkness, twinkle some of the various lights which mark the deadly shoals that abound in the mouth of the River Thames. From the

pier itself, too, the views of Southend are pleasing. On the right, the long low shore in the direction of Shoebury Ness is fringed with curiously irregular buildings; boats, fishing and other, dot the waters; and, maybe, some old-time coaster lies careened, awaiting the gang of ship-breakers. On the left the cliff is higher. It is crowned by large and prosperous-looking houses, in front of which, and separated only by the wide road, are the pleasant gardens called the "Shrubbery," beneath which again, and running close along the edge of the water, is a long sea promenade quite recently constructed, nay, as yet, hardly completed. Farther away may be seen the fleet of Leigh fishing vessels;

and beyond this again, in the dim distance, the ruined tower of the once mighty Hadleigh Castle stands boldly up above the intervening trees. From the entrance to the pier a long road leads directly to the Great Eastern railway station, beyond which a new straight road, bordered by young trees, takes one to Prittlewell, the mother parish.

Prittlewell is a place well worth visiting; its church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is interesting; and there are within the parish the relics of the ancient Priory, now

incorporated in a more modern house. The village street has more than one picturesque aspect, and there is also one house of great antiquity and considerable merit. The Church of the Virgin Mary at Prittlewell is the largest in this district of the county. It has a noble pinnacled tower (which forms a notable landmark), a nave and chancel of fair proportions, a south aisle, and a south chapel. The south chapel is usually known as the "Jesus" Chapel. By a narrow path, bordered by ancient though mutilated elms, one reaches the south porch, above which is a parvise chamber. The noble oak

carved door, apparently of Elizabethan date, within this porch is well worthy of notice; and one of its panels has furnished me with the subject for a sketch. Within the church the different styles of architecture in the piers of the nave

PANEL SOUTH DOOR PRITTLEWELL.

will be at once noticed, nor should the curious circular-headed recesses in the south aisle above the capitals of the piers pass without remark. These are of Norman date, and prove that the arches have been cut through a much more ancient wall. This portion of the church is undoubtedly the oldest. The tower arch is a fine one, its mouldings being both elaborate

and good in design. But it is to the "Jesus" Chapel that one naturally turns, attracted by some glass which adorns its east window, and which at a distance appears to be somewhat out of the common. Nor upon a nearer approach is this hasty opinion likely to be in any way modified, for the twelve panes which decorate this window contain specimens of perhaps the most remarkable glass in the county. Unfortunately, the window is composite, and hence I must give the palm to the east window of Messing, which is perfect; but, details alone being considered, Prittlewell is of the greatest excellence. And the story of this glass is a strange one. At the time of the French Revolution in 1789, when the iconoclasts were hard at work all over France, an ancestor of the late Sir Arundell Neave bought this glass out of a church in Rouen, and had it packed up and sent home. Continuing his journey into Italy, he obtained more glass, it is stated, and transmitted it similarly. From that time, until some two years ago, these glorious relics of art remained packed in boxes, until as a memorial they were placed in their present position. It will be seen that the glass itself is of different dates, and is partly Flemish and partly Italian. The marvellous way in which distance is conveyed in the various paintings cannot fail to strike even the most casual observer. A list of the subjects may well be inserted here, and is as follows :—

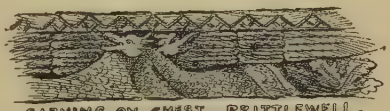
1. Elijah on Carmel.
2. The Stem of Jesse.
3. Elisha.
4. The Virgin and Child.
5. Jesus led from Annas to Caiaphas.
6. The Temptation.
7. Behold the Lamb of God.
8. Christ appearing after the Resurrection.
9. Christ led to Crucifixion.
10. The rebuilding of Jerusalem.
11. Death of David, and crowning of Solomon.
12. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

Especialy should the symbolism be remarked, which is

presented in most extraordinary ways—especially the various methods of introducing allusions to the Trinity. Note the wonderful life which is infused into the multitude (No. 5) crowding in at the door. No. 11, too, is specially worthy of attention in a window where all is far above modern possibilities. Students of costume and armour will find much here to give them delight, for the elaboration of detail in all the paintings, but specially in No. 9, is extreme, and might be sought for elsewhere in vain. Just beneath this window in the south wall is the small and curious piscina which I have sketched. The font is rather uncommon, though dating only from the reign of Henry VII. or Henry VIII. It is octagonal in shape, with concave sides. Two of the sides are blank, but the remaining six bear the following devices:—1, a heart transfixed by two spears; 2, a shield bearing a chevron between three fleurs-de-lis; 3, a mutilated crucifix; 4, the Tudor rose and Arragon pomegranate dimidiated; 5, a Tudor rose in a pentagon, (this is of an uncommon type); 6, blank; 7, a small rose;

8, blank. It should be added that Leigh Church contains a bad copy of this font. I have sketched four of the chief

of these decorations. Close by the font stands a large chest, which seems to have been partly constructed out of the relics of a rood screen, the stairs to which are still visible on the north side of the church. This carving consists of two planks; one is covered with very intricate and finely executed tracery, the other (at the back of the chest) bears the curious double-headed dragon which I here illustrate. Prittlewell has always been celebrated for its bells and bell ringing, so much so, that the frequency of the peals about the year 1840 led to a most unseemly dispute between the ringers and the then vicar, one Dr. Nolan. To such a disgraceful pitch did matters reach, that the Vicarage windows were broken by stones and bricks; the vicar and his wife retaliating with pistol shots. Legal proceedings followed, in which the ringers were worsted. Then the effigy of the vicar was burnt on Guy Fawkes day. Finally one of the offenders was committed to prison, and there remained for more than three months, until the fees in the Ecclesiastical Courts were paid.

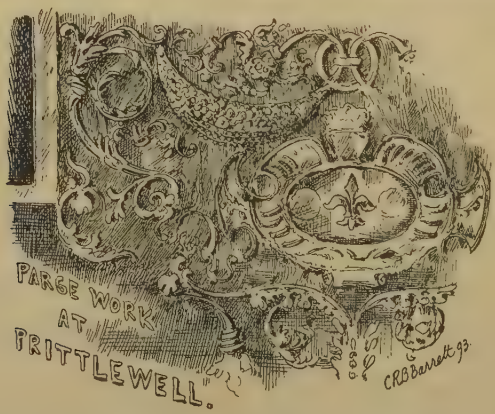


CARVING ON CHEST PRITTLEWELL.

It appears that there existed in the parish of Prittlewell during the reign of Edward IV. a guild concerned with the "Jesus" Chapel, in so much as it provided a "prest called Ihus priest" to do service therein. The guild was wealthy, and had a school where the children were instructed by the priest. It had also a Guildhall called "Jesus Hall," which stood opposite the south gate across the road. But, like almost every other guild in the country, the Jesus Guild of Prittlewell was swept away in the reign

of Edward VI., and the revenues thereof went to fill the pockets of some rapacious hanger-on at Court.*

A few yards down the road in the direction of Hadleigh, and on the left hand side, stands a grocer's shop, over the window of which is the name of Wallis. Looked at from the street, one would hardly expect to find anything of interest in the building, but the back of this house bears on its exterior some very remarkable parge work: not so old, perhaps, as the celebrated gable of the Sun Inn at Saffron Walden, or so extensive as the Wivenhoe house, but in its way quite as worthy of notice, and possessing, moreover, a singularly elegant and elaborately designed coved cornice. My sketch gives a portion of this beautiful mural



decoration, and I regret that space was lacking to give the whole of it.

* On the outer eastern wall of this chapel is a much-worn carved crowned head with a forked beard. Similar heads, but in much more perfect condition, form the corbels of the ruined Covehithe Church in Suffolk.

A short walk from the church takes one to Prittlewell Priory, which, though now a modern house in the main, still possesses a few portions of the religious house. And here I should state that from a beautiful well of water at the Priory the parish itself seems to have derived its name. The chief relics now existing are the Refectory and the Chapter House, but neither of them are in their entirety. Seemingly the major portion of the Priory was rebuilt in Tudor times, as relics of more ancient work, with the exception of some of the walls, and one thirteenth-century window, are very scanty. Of both these buildings ancient, though not original, roofs exist. The park and gardens are beautiful, being well timbered, and still possessing the old fish-ponds or stews of monkish days.* Prittlewell Priory was founded by Robert de Essex, the son of Suene, during the reign of Henry II. He bestowed his new house upon the Cluniac monks, the house thus being an alien one, and in its early days a cell of the parent Cluniac Priory of Lewes. The son of Robert de Essex, Henry, was standard-bearer to Henry II., and by his cowardly behaviour at the battle of Coleshille, in Flintshire, A.D. 1163, nearly caused that monarch's death. It is related that Henry de Essex on that occasion dropped the standard which he was carrying and bolted, thus causing a stampede of the royal troops. Some years later, Robert de Montford accused the recreant Essex of cowardice and treason. Trial by

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* The fish-ponds are fine, but not so complete as those at Stanton Harcourt, near Oxford, Bindon Abbey, near Wool Station, Dorset, or the wonderful series of seven attached to Ufton Court, Aldermaston, near Reading, the home of "Belinda" ("Rape of the Lock") during her married life.

battle was resorted to, and the encounter came off at Reading, the King himself being present. Essex was vanquished, and though his life was spared, he was compelled to pass the remainder of his days in monastic dress at Reading Abbey. As Prittlewell was an alien priory its revenues were not infrequently confiscated for a time when England was at war—to prevent English money from leaving the country in times when money was scarce. Confiscations of this kind took place in 1285 and 1337. The revenues were ultimately restored, though none of the income derived during the time of confiscation was returned.

Edward III. naturalized the Cluniac priory of Lewes and its cells, among which, of course, was Prittlewell. The prior at the Dissolution was named Thomas Norwich, at which time the house contained no more than seven monks, and possessed an income of £155 11s. 2d. The monastic order of Cluniacs was a branch of the Benedictines, whose headquarters were at the Abbey of Clugny, in France, an abbey founded by William I., Count of Auvergne, in 910. The order was reformed by Odo, their Abbot, in 927. William de Warrenne, Earl of Surrey, introduced the order into England, establishing it at Lewes, in Sussex, 1077. The Cluniacs soon became fashionable, and in the course of less than 200 years possessed forty-two priories and cells in this country alone. Four Cluniac houses were dissolved by Wolsey in 1525, the remainder being suppressed at the general dissolution of monasteries a few years later. The parent house at Clugny suffered much at the hands of the Huguenots, and was finally almost entirely destroyed by a revolutionary mob in 1789.

Upon the seashore, about half-way between Southend and Leigh, stands the Crow Stone. This was erected to mark the limit of the authority of the Corporation of London over the River Thames. Other stones are, I believe, still in existence; notably at Yantlet Creek, on the Kentish coast, and at Staines, in the county of Middlesex.

The Crow Stone by law marks the place where the river ends and the high seas begin. A more modern Crow Stone was erected in 1838, close to the ancient one, which at that time was completely covered with the names of dead and gone officials. The custom of visiting the stone has, however, now ceased.

LEIGH.

Leigh is a quaint, irregularly-built fishing village, which nestles for the most part along the water's edge, and which is dominated by its interesting church. Old-fashioned and in a manner historical as the place is, yet beyond tumble-down fisher-huts, one of which possesses a couple of carved brackets, there is no specimen of domestic architecture in Leigh to attract attention. With the church, however, matters are different, and for the following reason: sometime in the fifteenth century there existed here a guild of pilots connected with one at Deptford Strond, which increased in wealth and numbers until Henry VIII. incorporated it as the Guild or Fraternity of the Most Glorious and Undividable Trinity and of St. Clement, in the parish church of Deptford Strond, in the county of Kent. Now the parish church of Deptford is not dedicated to St. Clement, and the parish church of Leigh is, giving us thus an additional reason for accepting the guild tradition. The number of tombs and monuments to known Brethren of the Trinity House in Leigh Church and Churchyard is considerable, and sufficiently shows that the connection between Leigh and Deptford was continued for a very long period. The custom was for the Brethren at Leigh to furnish inward-bound ships with pilots, while those at Deptford furnished the outward-bound. Of families belonging to Leigh who were connected with the Trinity House for several generations I may cite those of Boner or Bonner, Chester, Goodlad, Haddock, Harris, Moyer, and

Salmon. The church of St. Clement at Leigh is interesting, especially for the tombs which it contains. Its fine ivy-clad tower forms a very prominent sea-mark, situated as it is upon the summit of the steep cliff, and commanding a wide view of the sail-dotted estuary of the Thames. The building, which belongs to the late perpendicular date, consists of a nave and chancel, north aisle and north chapel. To the south door a pretty little Tudor brick porch has been added, of somewhat later date than the rest of the building. Just within the south door is the quaint alms-box which furnished me with a sketch. It is a good specimen of its kind, and its inscribed lid, I sincerely hope, has been ere this cleansed from the disfiguring grease which coated it at the time of my visit: an alms-box is not intended to be used as an improvised candle-stick. The chancel which must, I fancy, have been nearly rebuilt in recent times, has been recently decorated with mural paintings. This work has been executed with taste, but of course looks rather new and will be improved by the mellowing influence of time. The font, as I have already

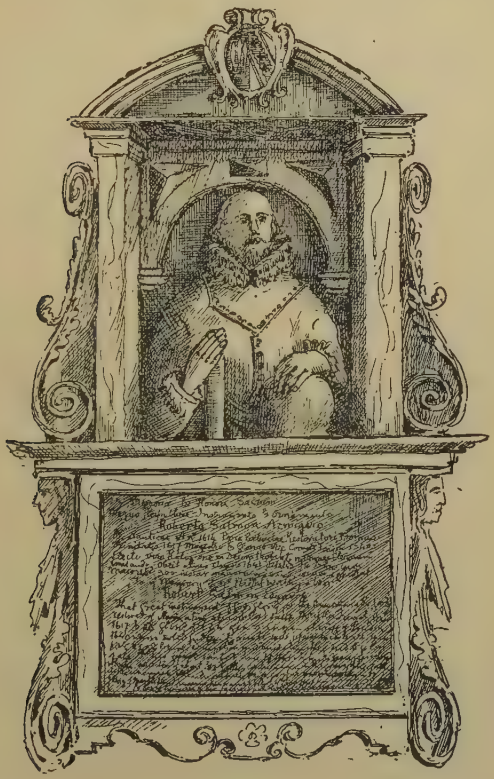
ALMS-BOX AT LEIGH CHURCH.

mentioned, is a not remarkably good copy of the Tudor font at Prittlewell. Record remains that at Leigh Church in the time of Elizabeth there were many heraldic windows; a list of the scutcheons therein comprises the arms of England, Nevill, Bohnn, Ormond, Marney, Rainsforth or Rainsford, Tyrell, Bourchier, Rochford, and Bullen. All these interesting relics have, however, unfortunately disappeared. During the restoration of the church in 1837-38 a number of historically interesting monuments also disappeared, notably a "Haddock" tablet, two carved oak panels belonging to the Hare family, a "Bonner" brass, and the interesting brass to Robert Salman and his two wives. This brass bore the inscription :—

"Hic jacet Robert^s Salman, Alicia, & John^a ux. ejus, qi qui de Robert^s Ob. 15 Sept. 1472." Had this been now in existence it would have been the earliest record of the Salmons in Leigh. There is, however, in the north aisle a brass to Thomas Saman, churchwarden in 1552. This tomb is inscribed, "Thomas Saman of the age of 70 years, a man worthy of praise, Frende unto the Frendles, a Father to this Town, Styll maintain good things and evil to throwe downe; Grandfather unto Thomas Saman, of the age of fourteen yeres, who both in one Day departed this Life 5 Aug. 1576." Close by is a brass to Robert Salman, "who took to wife Agnes, with whom he lived thirty-two years, and had issue by her, sixe Sonnes and foure Daughters. Ob. 6 Sept, 1591, æt. 58." On the north wall of the north chapel, in the corner, is the mural monument of Robert Salmon, Esquire. This monument, which is surmounted by a coat of arms, has a half effigy of the old worthy and a long inscription. My sketch shows the general

appearance of the monument. The blazon of the arms is as follows:—

For Salmon. Sable, three salmons haurient or: impaling for Andrewes, Or, on a bend engrailed between two



cottises sable, three mullets of the field. This Robert Salmon was the son of Robert and Alice Salman before mentioned, both of them were Masters of the Trinity

House, the father in 1588, the son in 1617. The inscription on the monument of Robert Salmon, Jun., runs as follows:—

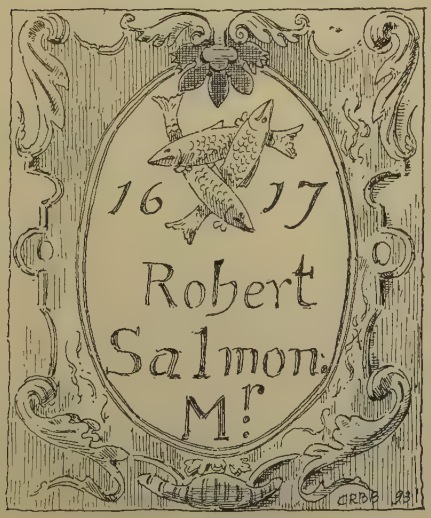
"Memoriæ et Honori Sacrum Magno Reipublicæ Instrumento et Ornamento Roberto Salmon Armigero, Rei Nauticæ an. 1614, pene extinctæ Restauratori, Domus Trinitatis 1617 Magistro et Gloriæ; Vice Comiti London 1640 electo, Viro Religione in Deum, Probitate in omnes æternum imitando ob. 1641, ætat 74, et hic cum Majoribs 300 instar annorum Jesum suum expectat.

To ye Memory of ye Right Worthy & Worll
Robert Salmon, Esquire,

That great instrument of God's Glory and ye Commonwealthe good, ye restorer of Navigation almost lost 1614. Mr of ye Trinity House 1617 & the glory of it 24 yeeres, chosen Sheriff of London 1640 whose solid Judgement, Acute Witt, Uprightness to all, true piety to God, require Admiration & Imitation. Hee died to ye loss of all but his great comfort, June 8th, 1641, in his 74 yeare; was interred with his ancestors of above 300 years' continuance in ye grave of his father in this Chancell, where hee expecteth a joyfull Resurrection.

Doe: (marble stone) preserve his name
And bee ye treasurer of his fame,
But if thou faile his name will bee
A lasteing Monument to thee."

The grant of arms to Robert Salmon must have been dated subsequent to 1617, as the painted glass pane, formerly at Deptford, but now in the Chapel of the Trinity House Almshouses in Mile End, bears only three interlaced salmon, the trade mark of the worthy mariner. The same mark was adopted by his father, and is in the same place; but it is surmounted by a merchant's mark as well. I give sketches of these two curious panes of glass, as I consider them of more than passing interest. Probably the Salmon coat of arms dates from his shrievalty in 1640.



Merchant's Mark and Badges of the Salmons, Mile End.

Robert Salmon married in 1620 Elizabeth, the sister of the celebrated Lancelot Andrewes, Bishop of Winchester, and widow of Captain Robert Boner, or Bonner, of Leigh, a Brother of the Trinity House. This we know from a petition forwarded by his wife and himself to the Council to compel the East India Company in 1623 to allow more than five shillings per ryal upon a sum of 1,000 ryals left by Captain Bonner in their hands. The proper exchange being ten shillings, and the Company having kept back the money for three years. Bishop Andrewes was the son of a London merchant, who himself had been Master of the Trinity House.

The Goodlad family were very nearly connected with the Trinity House; but the first record of one of them being Master of that Corporation dates from 1638, though we know several others to have been prominent Brethren of the Guild. Captain William Goodlad died in the year of his Mastership (old style), according to the records in the Trinity House, which I recently had the pleasure of perusing. A Nathaniel Goodlad, two Richard Goodlads, and a John were also connected with the Fraternity. The Goodlads mainly traded in the North Sea, being concerned with what was known as the Greenland Fleet. Of this fleet Captain William Goodlad was "Chiefe Commander" for twenty years. He is stated to have been a "worthy, able seaman, well approved, just unto all, and well beloved." The arms of the Goodlads were, "Per Pale Vert and Ermine, an eagle displayed Or."

Richard Chester, Master of the Trinity House in 1615, lies buried in Leigh Church beneath a slab bearing a brass plate. The inscription on this brass is as follows :—

"Underneath this stone lyeth buried the body of Richard Chester, of this Pish, Mariner, who whilest he lived was one of the elder brothers of the Trinity House and was M^r of the said Society in the yere of our Lord 1615. He lived in Marriage with Elizabeth his wife about 49 yeers, by whom he had issue 4 Sonns & one Daughter, of wch number only George & Robert Chester his Sonns & Elizabeth his Daughter survived him; he deceassed the 5th day of April 1632, & his said two Sonns George and Robt placed this stone here in remembrance of their said deceassed Father."

I here give two facsimile blocks of signatures of Wardens and Brethren of the Trinity House obtained from the Record Office. Those dated 1604 are of John Goodlad, Warden; John Skynner, Warden; Wm. Byam, Richard Chester, William Goodlad, Abraham Bonner, Jonas Parkyn, Thomas Gernon, Thomas Bonner, and Thomas Byam. Those dated 1618 are John Osbourne, Hugh Merrit, Thomas Best, Robert Salmon, Roger Tompson, William Wyre, William Hare, and Thomas Nultby (?).

The Haddock family were settled in Leigh for no less than four centuries, but, though respectable, had never any pretensions to gentle blood. They possessed no coat armour, and when Sir Richard Haddock (of whom more hereafter) was knighted, Le Neve records:—

"Sr Richard Haddock knighted at . . . . July 1675, after one of ye commission^rs of ye Navy. M^d. this p'son was born at Lee or Leigh in Essex at the Thames mouth, where the family long continued seafaring men, but never bore the title of gentlemen, & hath no right to arms tho' he bears the coat of Haydock of Lanc."

This Sir Richard Haddock was Master of the Trinity House in 1687. He had a son, Admiral Nicholas Haddock, who was a distinguished naval commander. Both lie buried in the churchyard at Leigh. We know that the Haddocks were at Leigh in the first year of the reign of

John Goodlad · warden · of the trynty house
John Skynner warden of the trynety house
[illegible] Byam Richard Chester
William Goodlad
Abraham Bonner
[illegible]
Thomas Hanson
Jonas Bonner
Thomas Byam

From a paper dated June 6 1604

Trinity house, Ratcliffe,
3° Junij. 1618°.

Yr Lordships most bounden: The Mr.
Wardens & Assistants of ye Trinity house.

John Osborne

Hughe merit

Jo Salmon

Mylliam Gerg

Jhe Mulley

Facsimile of Signatures of Trinity Brethren.

Edward III. The name occurs again on the tombs: Richard Haddock and his wives Christian and Margaret, the son of Richard; John Haddock and his wife Alice. Richard Haddock died on Nov. 11, 1454, his brass remaining to this day. The costume of the effigies points to their being persons of some consideration, but undoubtedly Le Neve knew what he was about, and though of old family, the Haddocks were not of gentle blood. There was in Leigh in 1652 a Captain Richard Haddock, who was rewarded by Parliament for his zeal to the extent of £40—a considerable sum in those days. He had a son William who commanded the *America*, a ship fitted out by the Parliament, in which he distinguished himself against the Dutch in 1653, receiving a gold medal. Sir Richard Haddock, Master of the Trinity House, was captain of the *Royal James* at the battle of Solebay in 1672, where he was wounded, and almost the only officer of the ship that survived. Charles II. personally bestowed on him a silk or satin cap, which he took from his own head and placed on that of Haddock. Sir Richard was knighted in 1675, and soon after entered Parliament, sitting as member first for Aldeburgh, in Suffolk, and afterwards for Shoreham. He subsequently became Comptroller of the Navy and joint Commander-in-Chief of the Fleet. He died Jan. 26, 1714-15, aged eighty-five. Richard Haddock, his eldest son, served with distinction in the Navy, as also did his third and youngest son Nicholas, the latter eventually being promoted to the rank of Admiral of the Blue. His chief services were performed against the Spaniards in the Mediterranean, when on one occasion he captured two ships of the value of two millions of dollars. Admiral Nicholas

Haddock died Sept. 26, 1746, aged sixty, and was buried near his father in Leigh Churchyard.

The Moyer family had four members at least who were connected with the Trinity House, and also with Leigh and its neighbourhood: Laurence Moyer, the Puritan; his elder brother Samuel, afterwards Sir Samuel Moyer, Bart.; James Moyer of London, merchant, who is buried in Leigh Church; and lastly, Benjamin Moyer. Sir Samuel Moyer, Bart., was a wealthy Turkey merchant, and the son of a Mr. Samuel Moyer, of London. Sir Samuel served as Sheriff of Essex in 1698, in which county he possessed an estate called Petsey Hall. He was created a baronet in 1701, and died without male issue in 1716. Sir Samuel was a brother of the Trinity House in the last years of the Parliament. His brother Laurence was one of the Parliamentarian Brethren appointed when the Trinity House Charter was dissolved in 1647. He was an uncompromising Puritan, and gave utterance to sentiments which, at the Restoration, caused Charles II. to demand his expulsion from the Trinity House. The Brethren, with whom Moyer was popular, demurred and staved off the execution of the sentence for three years. Laurence Moyer at the Restoration, it seems, was ready to take the oath of allegiance, but hesitated before taking the oath of supremacy required from all Wardens of the Trinity House. This was duly reported to Charles, as also were certain expressions used by Moyer some years before when a young man and hot-headed, to the effect that Bradshaw, the regicide, was "the greatest man," and the murder of Charles I. the greatest piece of heroic justice in the world. Moyer retired to his estate at Low Leighton, in Essex, where he

passed the remainder of his days in tranquillity. James Moyer, who lies buried in Leigh Church, was a benefactor to the charities of the parish, where already Sir Samuel had built and endowed a free school.

HADLEIGH CASTLE AND HADLEIGH CHURCH.

Hadleigh Castle and Hadleigh Church are both well worth a visit, and can be reached from Leigh station or from Benfleet. Though of great antiquity, Hadleigh is not mentioned by name in Domesday, and is supposed, at that date, to have formed a part of Rayleigh. In support of this view, it should be stated that Rayleigh then extended on both sides of Hadleigh Ray or Water. It may be taken for fact that at the date of the survey Hadleigh belonged to Suene, the relics of whose castle mound still exist at Rayleigh. In the days of Henry III. Hadleigh was granted to Hubert de Burgh, Earl of Kent, who forthwith commenced to build a castle under licence from the King. The life of this great Englishman cannot here be given in detail, but he will be remembered as Chief Justiciar of the kingdom, sheriff of no less than seven counties, and the victorious commander in our first great naval engagement against the French, when, with from sixteen to twenty ships belonging to the Cinque Ports, he defeated a fleet of eighty large and many small vessels, commanded by Eustace the Monk. Shakespeare, on the authority of Ralph of Coggeshall, makes Hubert de Burgh the humane guardian of Arthur of Brittany at the Castle of Falaise, who refused to put out the eyes of his young captive. The subsequent trials and troubles of Hubert de

Burgh and his narrow escapes from death need not here be recapitulated. He died at a great age at Banstead, Surrey, in the year 1243. Five-and-twenty years later Hadleigh Castle was committed to the charge of Richard de Thany, or Tany, by the King, and rather more than thirty years after that it was given to Queen Margaret by Edward I. By Richard II. it was bestowed on the "Bad" Earl of Oxford, Aubrey de Vere, for life. Next, Hadleigh is found in the possession of Edmund Plantagenet, Duke of York, and subsequently it belonged to Edmund, Earl of Richmond. From this date (1452) Hadleigh returned to the Crown, till Henry VIII. in 1540 granted it to Anne of Cleves, whom he divorced a few weeks afterwards. Edward VI. gave the castle, manor, &c., to Richard, Lord Riche, in 1551, from whom they passed to his descendants, the Earls of Warwick, in which family they remained till the Warwick estates were divided. Since that date Hadleigh has changed hands several times. The ruins of the castle stand well upon an eminence, though it is somewhat saddening to see how little is left of this once lordly place. As far as can be ascertained, Hadleigh never possessed a keep, a circumstance which is well worthy of remark. Roughly speaking, the area within the castle walls is about an acre, rather more than less, and takes the form of an ellipse some 110 yards long, by 40 yards wide. Still, even in its decay, whether seen from the distance on the water's edge at Leigh, or from close by, Hadleigh Castle is ever picturesque. Overgrown as the ruined walls are by shrubs and brushwood, it is not possible to clearly define the various portions of the building. But few there are who will fail to admire the grand old towers, circular on the outer and

octagonal upon their inner face, reversing, as it were, the arrangement of Orford Castle in the neighbouring county of Suffolk. Hadleigh was entered by the gateway tower at the north-west angle. Passages, or the relics of passages, may be traced in the thickness of the walls in places, one, indeed, leading into a small room. Despite the many stories to the contrary, I can assure the reader that this passage at least is nothing more than a sewer. Of course the venerable place has been credited with a ghost, which here takes the form of a white lady. One version of this legend is to the effect that the spectre on one occasion smote a terrified girl so violently that her neck was for ever after awry.

Hadleigh Church, dedicated to St. James the Less, is well worth a visit. It dates from the time of Stephen, and possesses what is not common in the county, viz., an apsidal end to the chancel. As may be expected, the style of architecture of the church is mainly Norman. Additions have of course been made: witness the windows, which are lancet, decorated, and perpendicular. The chancel arch, which is Norman, is well worth attention, for it shows us a screen-wall pierced with three semi-circular arches. Of these, two were closed with masonry long ago, probably in the fifteenth century, but contain cinqfoil hagiscopes. Some of the minutely and delicately carved niches should be noted on the west face of the piers, and also that on the north chancel wall. The traces which yet remain of mural painting are quite worthy of careful study, but it is much to be regretted that the effects of the climate destroyed several when they were first uncovered.

RETTENDON, RAYLEIGH, AND ROCHFORD.

RETTENDON, Rayleigh, and Rochford make a most pleasant excursion; the best method of accomplishing which is to travel by the Great Eastern Railway to Wickford Junction, whence the distance to Rettendon, *viâ* Battlesbridge, is but a short walk, or a few minutes' ride by train. From Rettendon walk to Rayleigh, returning by rail to Rochford, and so home to Southend.

Rettendon is a small and ancient village about nine miles south of Chelmsford, and includes within its limits the hamlet of Battlesbridge. The navigable river Crouch runs through the parish, passing thence between North and South Fambridge till it reaches the sea about six miles below Burnham. On either side of the Crouch for a considerable distance the ground is flat and low; hence from the top of the hill upon which Rettendon Church stands the view of the boat and barge-dotted river is both extensive and in a measure picturesque. We find Rettendon as one of the original possessions of the nunnery of Ely, having been bestowed thereon by the foundress Etheldreda (A.D. 673); but when a bishopric was established there 435 years afterwards, this Essex parish was in some way transferred to the diocese by its conventual owners: church property it remained until the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when it was sold. A manor house formerly existed here, but it has been so altered and reduced in size as to contain nothing of interest. The only names of importance which

occur in connection with Rettendon are those of Bourchier, De la Hay, and Sir Henry Saville; the two first named, it would appear, held lands here in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries of the Bishop of Ely. Saville, the founder of the Oxford Professorship of Geometry and Astronomy, obtained by purchase the manor of Little Hayes, and bequeathed it to the University. Little Hayes, Hays, or Lillehais, thus by its name keeps the memory of the old family green. The name of Battlesbridge is by tradition derived from a battle stated to have been fought there in 1016 between the Danish Knut and Edmund Ironside. In this year the celebrated battle of Assundun was fought on the hill now known as Ashingdon and distant from Battlesbridge about five miles as the crow flies. There is no record of any other battle in the neighbourhood at this date, and I cannot but think that the name Battlesbridge originated in some bridge which existed over the river, here quite narrow, and which formed either the means of escape for the fugitives or the limit of the pursuit of the victorious Danes. The story of the battle of Assundun is so familiar that it need not be repeated here.

The Church of All Saints, Rettendon, is both ancient and interesting, one or two points within it being particularly well worth notice. It is small in size, and consists of a nave, chancel, north aisle, and north chapel; at the west end the tower stands up boldly with an embattled parapet and a conical roof. Some of the internal fittings of the church are very remarkable, especially a series of "poppy heads" which will be found in the chancel. Among these occurs the crest of the Lathams, which is now used by the Stanleys, the eagle and child. The story of this crest is that a

From Lexden it was that Fairfax issued his orders—orders which knocked to pieces the fine old churches and houses of ancient Colchester. It is somewhat strange that this two months' siege should have taken place, as it were, by accident, for evidently the Royalist party, under Lucas and Lisle, had no intention of being shut up in the town. The rising of 1648, in the beginning, seems to have partaken more of the nature of a raid. Outmanœuvred and out-

generalled in every way, as they were, it seems simply marvellous that the ill-provided Royalists, in a hostile town, could have endured the prolonged siege so obstinately. If one wanders round Colchester with a fair map, a very clear idea may be obtained of the position of affairs and the chief points of attack. The story of the siege is a long one, too

long to narrate here in detail, nor indeed would it be well to spoil by curtailment so fine a narrative of loyalty and pluck. By means of a verbal quibble in the terms of the surrender, Fairfax selected three of his conquered foes and ordered their immediate execution. Private vengeance supplied a motive for the execution of one of them; no particular reason can be assigned for the death of the second; while the third, a foreigner, Sir Bernard Gascoigne, was reprieved for fear of the consequences likely to follow on his death. Hurriedly from the dungeon in the old Castle keep the unfortunate gentlemen were marched out to be shot, and met their death, as might be expected, with fortitude. A few hours later, in an equally hasty manner, their bodies were buried in the Lucas vault within the church of St. Giles.

HISTORICAL NOTES.

A FEW extracts from the State Papers in reference to Colchester will be here inserted. In 1591 many of the poor inhabitants of Colchester petition the Queen, complaining of the great numbers of Dutchman and foreigners settled in the town during the last sixteen years (though previous petitions from the place had been strongly in favour of the Dutch Church there established), whereby they are deprived of sustenance or themselves, their wives and children, provisions being so dear. They also complain of the enclosure of common ground (800 acres) by the townsmen of Colchester. This is stated to

have been done by the leave of Sir Thomas Heneage, but they assert that they do not think "good" Sir Thomas would give such leave. The petition concludes with a prayer, first for vengeance, and then for redress from the Queen as the mother of her subjects. On June 15th, 1596, Sir Thomas Lucas writes to the Privy Council from his house, at St. John's, Colchester, giving a lengthy account of an attempt to seduce the trained bands by seditious language, which was made by a certain Sir John Smythe. Sir John seems to have been very unskilled in seditious arts, for he committed the egregious folly of riding up to the pikemen and archers and point-blank proposing that they should desert. One only joined him, by name Mannock, a recusant. The reports and depositions on this matter are very voluminous, but very interesting. Eventually Sir John Smythe was committed to the Tower, whence he despatched a most argumentative epistle to the Council, in which the right of monarchs to levy troops was strenuously denied. Later on it was discovered that Sir John had at his house at Coggeshall "divers things supposed to be for war, locked up in chests and trunks of great weight"; also great boxes of bullets, "fine with devices to charge a piece readily and surely," probably cartridges, for it is stated lower down that "not so few as 1,000 of them are in readiness." The boxes, it appears, contained bows and arrows sufficient to equip forty men. When under examination, Sir John professed to have taken too much red and white wine at dinner, but owned that he felt much aggrieved with "divers matters offered him by the Lord Treasurer," and that, being angry, he had spoken words he knew not what. Sir John remained long in prison, but was eventually released.

On October 29th, 1634, William Lynne writes from Little Horsley, near Colchester, to Archbishop Laud. This is a very curious letter, in which the writer expresses his sorrow at the backwardness of the neighbourhood in aiding to repair St. Paul's. A great parish near him, he says, lately gave sixpence, while some give nothing at all, and the best give "not so much as was spent in persuading them." The letter goes on to denounce one Thomas Cotton, of Bergholt, as a "great depraver of Government," in whose study would be found all the "discontented books and speeches invective against the Church and State." Mr. Cotton, it seems, maintained "some peevish intelligencer in London" to weekly send him news of the time, which news he used to read aloud in the market. Mr. Lynne proposes that Laud should "sting" Cotton! Mr. Cotton's study seems to have been searched, as, a few months later, a list of his books is given, though it is possible that they may have been the property of a Puritanical friend of his, the celebrated Dr. Bastwick. In the January of the following year the informer Lynne writes to the Secretary Windebank in much perturbation of spirit. Mr. Cotton, it appears, has been set at liberty, and is vowing vengeance. Lynne fears that he will be assaulted by one John Barnish, a "professed ruffian, that keeps most at his house" (Cotton's), and carries a pocket pistol.

In some notes by Nicholas, of business to be transacted by the Lords of the Admiralty, the following occurs under date January 13th, 1634-5:—"The town of Colchester is now passing their Charter, by which they are to have concurrent jurisdiction with the Admiralty in Admiralty affairs, which is an ill precedent"; upon the margin of this

is written, "Speak with the Lord Keeper to stay it at the seal." Doubtless the good burgesses of Colchester wondered what the hitch was, or who was placing an impediment in the way. In 1636 (?) one Boroughs, of Colchester, is mentioned by Dr. Aylett, in notes for a letter to Laud. Boroughs is, it appears, in custody for disturbing three congregations at three several churches there one Sunday morning, and, moreover, for exhibiting a very scandalous libel against Church Governors and Church Government. On the 25th January, 1636–7, the Council sends down an order to the Mayor of Colchester bidding him to send to London in safe custody a man named Edward Bell, who, it appears, had forged the handwritings of Archbishop Laud and of the Lord Privy Seal and the Earl of Holland, on a paper which he used to "colour his villany in abusing the country" by begging. In April, 1637, a curious case occurs. It appears that a certain baymaker of Colchester, by name Thomas Reignolds, was accused of having paid some of his *employés* in "dead commodities" instead of in money. The workmen appealed to the magistrates, who decided that Reignolds should pay the complainants a certain sum of money and give further satisfaction; but he refused to obey the order, boasting that he would spend £100 before he would pay them a penny. In a petition to the Council Reignolds denies the charge, going into a lengthy and detailed account of his transactions, and encloses six affidavits of various weavers in support of his case. A certificate was also forwarded about the same time signed by Thomas Browne and nintey-five other persons, to the effect that the statements of the workmen of Reignolds were malicious calumnies, and that during the time of his

trading in the town he had "justly behaved himself in his trade, and done much good in setting many poor on work, and has ever dealt honestly in paying them for their labour." The Council, however, committed Reignolds to the Fleet until he should pay to the petitioners double as much wages as he had defrauded them of. Reignolds was kept in confinement for a week, during which time his works were burnt down, and he suffered heavy loss. He appears to have employed five hundred hands, and on petition was released, May 17th, 1637.

On June 21st, 1637, a singular document was sent to Sir Nathaniel Brent by Jonas Proast and Thomas Colt, ministers of the Dutch congregation, and others, in which they humbly recognize the Archbishop's authority and thank him for his indulgence unto "our aliens and natives of the first descent, for enjoying their freedom in the use of their former rights of divine service and discipline." They acknowledge the receipt of an intimation from Brent and Aylett, "our worthy commissary," of his Grace's pleasure about our natives of the second descent, who are henceforth to receive the Holy Eucharist, to baptize, to marry, to bury, &c., in their parish churches. The paper concludes with the remark that "having maturely deliberated," they find nothing to except against his Grace's pleasure.

In March, 1640, comes a remonstrance from Sir John Lucas, complaining of the improper conduct of the saltpetremen in the house of Mrs. Lucas, called St. John's. Mrs. Lucas was in London, and during her absence the saltpetremen broke open the doors, insulted her servants, and by force entered and dug in rooms both unfit and unlawful for them to dig in. He goes on to say that it is neither

fair nor equal dealing for these saltpetremen to trouble the house of a person of Mrs. Lucas' quality, while there were many inns and other houses in Colchester fit for their purpose, and where they had not been at all. The saltpetremen, on being called to account, defended themselves in a long paper of answers, but the prevarications therein were so manifest that prosecution was threatened.

On Whit Monday morning, 1640, there was a kind of a riot in Colchester, produced by the accidental discharge of a musket by a soldier, and something similar occurred on the following day. But the town was at that period in a very disturbed state, and there were rumours abroad that certain Irishmen had formed a design to fire the town. The trained bands were called out, and the place put into some condition of preparation against all emergencies. Four companies of soldiers were billeted upon the inhabitants, and this impost formed the subject of a petition from the bailiffs and commonalty praying its discontinuance, as the last sickness and the decay of trade had so impoverished the place that, though the rates were trebled, they were insufficient to keep the poor. They likewise accused the soldiers of committing "incredible villanies!"

Mention has previously been made of Dr. Bastwick. In December, 1640, a petition comes from him to the Commons. He was a doctor of physic, who wrote a Latin book called "Elenchus Religionis Papisticae," with an addition called "Flagellum Pontificis et Episcoporum Latialium," being "provoked to it," as he avers, by one Richard Short, a Papist. In the preface he declared that therein he meant nothing against such bishops as acknowledged their authority from kings, &c. But he had fallen

into the clutches of the Court of High Commission on account of this work six years before. He was ruined, excommunicated, and had been ever since a close prisoner in the island of Scilly. He prays for release, a prayer which is referred by the House to a Select Committee. The poor man had also been pilloried and had his ears cropped. The case seemed to have excited a great deal of feeling at the time, and in another paper there is a reference to the "ushering into London" of the unfortunate doctor towards the end of the year. He was probably then released, but two years later, on June 27th, 1642, while in company with the son of Sir Henry Ludlow and "two other famous firebrands of this State," Bastwick was caught stealing secretly away from attending a Parliamentary Committee at Beverley. All were armed with "long pistols," and wore buff coats. In the letter narrating this fact, Nicholas, the secretary, announces that they were "laid fast, and ordered to be brought safe to York Castle."

One other extract in conclusion :—

Early in the year 1662 Mary Lisle petitioned the King for payment from the Excise of £2,000. One of her brothers, Francis Lisle, was slain at Marston Moor; the other, Sir George, was barbarously murdered at Colchester. Her father had lost £20,000 by the prevention of an importation of tobacco and pipes into Ireland, and though he received an order for its payment, the Lord Justices say that they cannot charge the revenue with such a sum. She states that she is the only survivor of her family, and "in her is nothing but their miseries." One is pleased to read that within a few days the petition was granted and the money paid.

The Trade Mark or Trade Label here illustrated came under the notice of the writer by chance. It was obtained from a volume of woodcuts in the Print Room of the

British Museum. The label is the work of Dirk de Bray, who was the son of the artist Salomon de Bray, and was born at Haarlem about the year 1640. Dirk de Bray furnished trade marks and labels for half Europe, and there are several hundred examples still in existence. The writer has seen upwards of seven hundred. This label has the arms of Colchester wrongly drawn, as usual. The view of the Castle is evidently imaginary, but

one is inclined to speculate upon the identity of the small building upon the left-hand side. Another trade label of the same date also exists, bearing the device of three cornflowers and the same initials J. B. & C.

ST. BOTOLPH'S PRIORY

another conflagration took place, which destroyed a great part of the building. For some time Rochford Hall was desolate, but eventually a certain amount of work was done there which rendered the place habitable; but unfortunately in the doing of this, new windows were put in, and the red brickwork of the front was smeared with objectionable plaster. The place has for some years now been used as a farmhouse, and within there is absolutely not one vestige of carving or ornamentation to connect it with any of the

ROCHFORD HALL.

distinguished families who have been its possessors. But the place has a ghostly air about it, even more so than most empty houses; not that there is any suggestion now of supernatural visitors, though many years ago the Rochford Hall ghost caused quite a sensation in the country far and wide. I wandered through the long empty passages, and up and down the winding stairways, seeking traces of antiquity and finding none. Not even do the little turret chambers reward our search. Still, the memory

of the hapless Anne Bullen clings to the place, though she was not born there, nor, indeed, did she live there for any length of time (local tradition notwithstanding). Somehow (*pace* Hever and Blickling), one cannot dissociate the fate of Anne Bullen from the now melancholy Rochford Hall. Fragmentary as the whole place now is, with little bits of old work appearing behind sheds and fences, one,

the subject of my sketch, is supposed to be possibly the gatehouse, though the reason for the suggestion in the face of so small an archway is unaccountable. A little courtyard is now entered through the farmer's kitchen, and here within we find another small turret, evidently a stairway, leading to the rooms on the north front. This front, which I endeavoured to sketch in the fast waning evening light,

still possesses its quaint row of gables and tall chimneys. At the far end is the turret which is shown in my first sketch, and near in the foreground are the ruins of another turret, which is now used as a receptacle for rubbish. Where the chapel was, or where the great hall, none can now tell, so completely have all traces of them vanished.

THE END.